

ESSA Parental Notifications

Hardeman County Schools

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Mission Statement: The mission of the Hardeman County School System is to educate all students to be prepared for college or the workforce and be a productive citizen.

Parents play a vital role in the educational experiences of their children. The Hardeman County School District seeks the active participation of parents in improving their child's educational achievement and wants to keep them informed of their rights.

- The Hardeman County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability in the provision of educational opportunities, activities, or administered programs.
- Your child attends a federally funded Title I School-wide School. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that schools create a positive and supportive learning environment that results in high levels of achievement for all students. Funds are available for academic programs, additional teachers and paraprofessionals, staff development, materials, supplies, technology, and parent trainings.
- ESSA requires schools to provide information and notices to parents about their child's school, academic progress, teachers, and more.
- Parents will have access to system/school report cards when released by the State Department of Education. These reports can be accessed at <https://www.tn.gov/education/>.
- Parents will receive information regarding the achievement levels of their child on state academic assessments when results are available for release.
- Parents will be informed if their child is enrolled in a school identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. The school district will provide an explanation of what this means, academic comparisons with other schools in the district and state, the reasons for identification, steps being taken to improve academic achievement, strategies to increase parent involvement, etc.
- As a parent, you have a right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s) and any paraprofessional providing instructional support to your child. Teaching certifications can be obtained by accessing the Tennessee Department of Education, Teacher Licensing website <https://tdoe.tncompass.org/Public/Search>. If you would like to request information about your child's teacher(s) or paraprofessional, you can also contact your child's school.
- Districts, schools, and students may voluntarily participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Parents of children selected to participate in any NAEP assessment must be informed before the assessment is administered that their child may be excused from participation for any reason, is not required to finish any assessment, and is not required to answer any test question. A district must make reasonable efforts to inform parents and the public about their right to access all assessment data (except personally identifiable information), questions, and current assessment instruments. The district will also post its testing schedule for the 2017-2018 school year to the district's website.

- Districts receiving Title I funds and each school served under Title I must develop and distribute to parents of children participating in Title I programs a written parent involvement policy. The district's policy can be accessed at www.hardemancountyschools.org. Copies of the district and individual school plans are also available at the Central Office and each Title I school.
- Schools must schedule at least one annual meeting and offer a flexible number of meetings to provide parents with information about programs, a description and explanation of the curriculum, forms of academic assessment, and if requested opportunities for regular meetings to discuss the education of their child.
- Parents of a student identified as limited English proficient (EL – English Learner) must be notified in a timely manner of their child's participation in an ESL program, details of the program, rights to waive participation, and specific information regarding the child's level of English proficiency. When a child registers for school, a Home Language Survey is completed. If a language other than English is spoken by the student or in the home, the school will assess the child's language proficiency to determine his/her eligibility for appropriate services.
- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures the educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The term "homeless children and youth" refers to individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. For more information, contact the school system's homeless liaison, Darrell Wooden at 731-658-2510 or the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children, Justin Singleton at 615-253-3101 or Justin.Singleton@tn.gov.
- Districts receiving federal funds are required to notify parents of secondary school students that they have a right to request their child's name, address, and telephone number not be released to a military recruiter without their prior written parental consent.
- Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), school districts are required to protect the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their child's education records. The district will not collect, disclose, or use personal information from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information.
- Under the Tennessee State Board of Education's Unsafe School Choice Policy, any public school student who attends a persistently dangerous school, or any student who is victim of a violent crime while at school, shall be provided an opportunity to transfer to another grade-level appropriate school.
- Asbestos Management Plan – An asbestos management plan is available to view in the principal's office by parents, teachers, and employee organizations.
- ESSA requires local education agencies to distribute information about the Tennessee Department of Education's written complaint procedures that offer parents, public agencies, and other individuals or agencies a method for receipt and resolution of complaints alleging violations in the administration of programs. Information regarding complaint procedures for federal grant programs can be located at https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/education/attachments/esea_complaint_procedures.pdf.