Dear Parents:

Thirty years of research identifies parent involvement as the key component in ensuring a child’s academic success. For this reason, a successful partnership between teachers and parents is crucial to the success of students in Alabama’s public schools.

Teachers and parents are striving for the same goal—to continually work in the best interest of the children under their care. Forming a comfortable, working relationship with your child’s teacher will provide the teacher insight into a student’s life outside of the classroom, and have an immediate impact on a child’s attitude and behavior inside the classroom.

Please accept your parental responsibility of creating a home filled with love and respect, and living in a lifestyle of service to your child’s school.

Ed Richardson, State Superintendent of Education
Alabama Department of Education

Dear Parents,

PTA stands firm in the belief a child’s success in school is a direct result of parent involvement. Parents must share with schools and the community the responsibility of providing children with opportunities to build skills and develop relationships that will help them be successful students.

PTA’s National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs are:
• Communicating—Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
• Parenting—Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
• Student Learning—Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
• Volunteering—Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.
• School Decision Making and Advocacy—Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
• Collaborating with Community—Community resources are used to strengthen families, schools, and student learning.

PTA is an established organization ready to help parents to become involved with their children and their schools. Contact us today for additional information and support!

Lori Farshee, Executive Director
Alabama PTA
Did You Know …

… the most accurate predictor of a student’s achievement in school is how well the student’s family is able to:
- Create a home environment that encourages learning.
- Express high, but not unrealistic, expectations for their child’s achievement and future careers.
- Become involved in their child’s education at school and in the community.

Benefits of family support and involvement for students:
- Higher grades and test scores
- Better attendance and more homework done
- Higher graduation rates*

ALABAMA NEEDS YOU …

… TO BE AN EFFECTIVE PARENT!

Education is a close partnership between school and home. Consider these areas which you affect and areas which are important in building this partnership.

As a Concerned Parent, Do I …

- Praise my child’s teacher in front of him?
- Support the school in ways in which I am able?
- Volunteer to work in the school?
- Participate in parent-teacher conferences and apply the results?
- Read to my child at night?
- Take trips, share experiences, and talk about activities?
- Provide a dedicated place and time for homework?
- See that homework is done regularly?
- Thank the teacher and school administrators for their efforts?
- Personally know and talk with my child’s teacher(s)?
- Provide extra learning opportunities in the summer and after school?
- Actively work with the PTA?
- Listen to my child read?
- Provide emotional security for my child?
- Reinforce proper discipline and manners at home?
- Take the first step to open communication lines if there is a problem at school?
- Seek to help the school in any way possible?
- Try to learn ways I can help my child at home?
- Assign certain responsibilities to my child at home?
- Act as a role model for my child?
- Exercise with my child?
- Go places and do things with my child?
- Praise my child’s accomplishments?
- Give all family members the opportunity to talk about the day’s events?
- Have established schedules for bedtime, meals, bathing, homework, and chores?
- Show affection to my child?
- Provide guidance to and total acceptance of my child?
- Approach education challenges with enthusiasm?

Remember …

- Children are constantly learning.
- Children learn best from firsthand experiences.
- Learning opportunities can be found in everyday experiences.
- Parents and schools together provide the opportunities and motivation for learning. Neither can do this alone!

PARENTS, BE THE BEST TEACHER YOU CAN BE!

YOUR CHILD’S FUTURE DEPENDS ON YOU!

For more information on Parent Involvement or Community Education, contact:
your local public school; or Alabama PTA, 1-800-328-1897, www.alabamapta.org

*Source: The Family is Critical to Student Achievement by Ann T. Henderson.

Ed Richardson, State Superintendent of Education
Alabama Department of Education • 9/2003

It is the official policy of the Alabama State Department of Education that no person in Alabama shall, on the grounds of race, color, disability, sex, religion, national origin or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity or employment.