





FAMILY

 Resource Center

WHO ARE WE?

The Lenoir City Schools Family Resource Center is dedicated to the concept of non-threatening assistance to families and children in learning about and accessing services available to them. Our staff will provide information, informal counseling, and will develop specific services to meet the needs of a child or family.

PROGRAMS

- Panther Pack Club
- Lending Library (K)
- Santa's Helper
- Volunteer Program
- Parent Classes
- Let's TALK
- Preschool Camp
- PC-GYM Bags (PreK)
- Adopt a Class/School
- Get Your Selfie 2 School





SERVICES

- School Supplies
- Bilingual Services
- Registration/Deployment
- Homeless Support
- Vision/Health Services
- Information & Referral





Family Resource Centers

Program Guidelines

Tennessee Department of Education | 2024

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements3

Introduction: Tennessee Family Resource Centers4

Guidelines5

Appendix6

Acknowledgements

The department acknowledges and expresses its gratitude to the stakeholders of the Family Resource Center Advisory Council for their collective guidance, feedback, and support in the revision of guidelines and strategic FRC framework.

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Introduction: Tennessee Family Resource Centers

Since 1993, Tennessee Family Resource Centers (FRCs) have served as a strong partner to families and communities for local education agencies (LEAs). Serving as welcoming hubs for families that promote engagement and support services within their respective LEA, FRCs engage schools and community stakeholders to identify barriers hindering the social, personal, physical, and academic well-being of students. FRCs then empower students and families by providing high-quality services through a coordinated system of support. FRCs enhance an LEAs overall mission focused around three pillars:

Families: *Develop an interconnected and consistent approach that responds to the mental health and wellbeing needs of students and families.*

Readiness: *Develop and integrated approach that ensures a pathway to prosperity for every student and family.*

Communities: *Develop programs and partnerships targeted to unlock the potential of students, families, and schools.*

This approach allows FRCs to lead efforts to increase access to essential support in real time, strengthen family engagement, address chronically out of school, and empower families through early intervention.

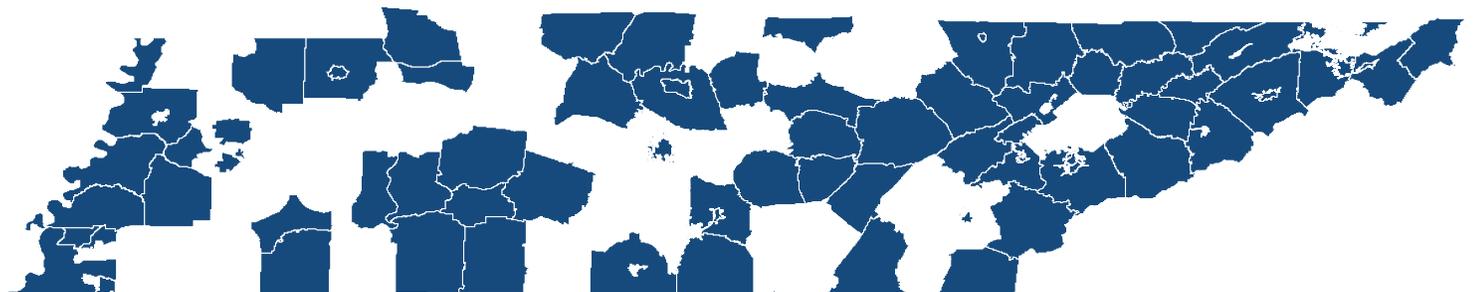
Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) § 49-2-115 permits LEAs to expend Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) funds for the planning and implementation of FRCs. The purpose of FRCs shall be to maximize the potential learning capacity of the child by ensuring the school and neighborhoods are safe and socially enriching, that families are strong and able to protect children and meet their basic needs and that children are physically healthy, emotionally stable, socially well-adjusted, and able to connect with enriching opportunities and experiences in their schools and communities.

Mission

Tennessee Family Resource Centers
unlock potential.

Vision

Tennessee Family Resource Centers unlock potential by serving as a resource and support hub. FRC's proactively **engage** with their communities to **empower** students and families, bridging gaps to ensure they **evolve** together through connected systems of support unique to each community.



Guidelines

Program Implementation

Local Education Agencies implementing Family Resource Centers, in conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Education, must adhere to the following guidelines to ensure operation and performance is aligned with the legislative intent of TCA § 49-2-115:

- Submit program implementation/continuation application annually administered by the Tennessee Department of Education.
- Ensure the FRC is located in or near a school.
- Identify a full-time, qualified individual designated as the Family Resource Center director. The FRC director may be either an employee of the school system or an employee of the agency that any given school system may choose to contract with for the provision of an FRC.
- Develop and provide a written job description of FRC personnel with minimum qualifications to include education and/or experience in social service, mental health, and/or education-related fields; pre-service and annual in-service training in specific services, which are related to the goals of the FRCs, shall also be included. The FRC director shall serve as the liaison between the advisory council and administration, including school administration and the local Board of Education.
- Establish an advisory council where parents shall comprise a majority.
- Ensure new FRC personnel attend trainings as set forth and required by the department.
- Establish and maintain adequate funding through the combination of state, local, and/or other mechanisms to ensure operations and program goals are sustainable.
- Serve as an essential hub of support that:
 - Identifies and implements strategies that foster active engagement between home and school.
 - Develops and implements a coordinated system of support responsive to LEA needs.
 - Establishes and sustains active relationships that broaden interagency collaboration and maximize program initiatives.
- Establish a system for evaluation and monitoring to assess the effectiveness of FRC programming.

Program Requirements

- Conduct a bi-annual needs assessment to ensure programs and supports are responsive to FRC stakeholders.
- Establish and maintain a visible online presence that should include but is not limited to an LEA district website or school website, where respective stakeholders can be aware of FRC program supports.
- Develop and implement a referral process to ensure school-aged students, families, and school staff can refer individuals in need of supports.
- Develop and submit an action plan to the department outlining goals and measurable objectives prior to the beginning of a new school year.
- Submit mid-year (end of December) and end of year (end of May) action plan updates to the department.
- Submit an annual report as specified by the department showcasing total program outcomes.
- Participate in department-led meetings, trainings, or other related professional development on an ongoing basis.
- Develop and present impact reports to Director of Schools, Supervisor, FRC Advisory Council, local Board of Education, and other stakeholders.

Appendix

Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) § 49-2-115 – Family Resource Centers

(a) Family resource centers may be established by any LEA in order to coordinate state and community services to help meet the needs of families with children. An LEA may directly operate its own family resource centers or may contract with a locally based nonprofit agency, including a community action agency, to operate one (1) or more such centers on behalf of the LEA. Each center shall be located in or near a school. The local school board shall appoint community service providers and parents to serve on an advisory council for each family resource center. Parents shall comprise a majority of each advisory council.

(b) Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement formula (TISA) funds may be expended by an LEA to plan and implement a family resource center. The application for such approval shall identify a full-time director and other professional staff from the school or community, or both, which may include psychologists, school counselors, social workers, nurses, instructional assistants and teachers. In establishing family resource centers, the department shall consult with the departments of health, mental health and substance abuse services, intellectual and developmental disabilities and children's services.

(c) [Deleted by 2022 amendment.]

(d) LEAs with state approved family resource centers may be given priority in receiving additional state funding for:

- (1) Formal parent involvement programs in elementary schools;
- (2) Early childhood programs for children at-risk;
- (3) Programs for parents with preschool at-risk children;
- (4) Learning centers in urban housing projects;
- (5) Programs in high schools for pregnant teenagers; and
- (6) "Jobs for Tennessee Graduates" in high schools.

(e)

(1) Family resource centers shall provide interagency services/resources information on issues such as parent training, crisis intervention, respite care and counseling needs for families of children with behavioral/emotional disorders.

(2) Family resource centers shall serve the function of being the center of information sharing and resource facilitation for such families.

(3) Family resource centers shall also serve the function of helping families answer questions regarding funding for the options of service their child or family requires.

(f) The purpose of each family resource center shall be to maximize the potential learning capacity of the child by ensuring that school environments and neighborhoods are safe and socially enriching, that families are strong and able to protect children and meet their basic needs and that children are physically healthy, emotionally stable, socially well-adjusted and able to connect with enriching opportunities and experiences in their schools and communities. In order to enable children to attain the most benefit possible from the time they spend in educational settings, the family resource centers shall focus on providing information to families about resources, support and benefits available in the community and on developing a coordinated system of care for children in the community in order to effectuate this purpose.

(g) The department of education and the department of children's services shall jointly develop guidelines for the operation of family resource centers, focusing on the requirements of this section, including the stated purpose of family resource centers in subsection (f). The guidelines shall be used by all family resource centers established pursuant to this section.