

**Fort Smith Public Schools
2015-16
District Parent Involvement Policy**

Goal 1: How will the LEA foster effective parental involvement strategies and support partnerships among school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement?

Fort Smith Public Schools understand the importance of involving parents in meaningful communication and consultation in order to develop and foster partnerships that ensure improved student achievement and academic success. To achieve these goals, the District shall work to:

- Involve parents and community in the development of long term planning for District school improvement, including the parental involvement requirements of the Title I program and the parental involvement process.
- An annual meeting was conducted on January 22, 2015, to review and revise parental involvement programs and procedures. A meeting will be held in January of 2016 to update the Parental Involvement policy for 2016-17. The meeting will be facilitated by Dr. Sarah Biggs, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, and the Parent and Community Services Council Chair. Dr. Biggs can be reached at the Parker Center at 479.784.8182, Ext. 3533. For questions concerning the Title I program or policy, please contact Caroline Neel, Supervisor of Curriculum/Federal Programs at 479.784.8182, Ext. 3542.
- Reserve a minimum of 1% of the Title I Part A allocation, 95% going to District Title I schools, for parental involvement.
- Have a coordinated effort for parental involvement activities with those of other programs such as the Early Childhood Education program. For questions concerning these activities, please contact Dr. Sarah Biggs, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, Parent and Community Services Council Chair. Dr. Biggs can be reached at the Parker Center at 479.784.8182, Ext. 3533.
- Establish a parental involvement contact person at each of the District Title I schools. The schools and school parent involvement facilitators are as follows: Ballman, Karen Williamson; Barling, Vickie Heppel; Beard, Audra Efurud; Bonneville, Shannon Rutherford; Carnall, Lisa Bartmier; Cavanaugh, Tiffany Mouada; Cook, Leslie Stewart; Euper Lane, Michelle Burnett; Fairview, Ginnetta Tipton; Howard, Jane Stewart; Morrison, Sherri Ray; Orr, Michele Daily; Pike, Sarah Williams; Spradling, Cathy Cassingham; Sunnymede, Erin Wilson; Sutton, Eva Riley; Tilles, Deanna Griffey; Trusty, Tracy Gipson; Woods, Hannah Massey; Belle Point, Susan Holder; Chaffin, Katie Kreimer; Darby, Kelly Daniels; Kimmons, Felipa Garcia; Ramsey, Amanda Bulger; Northside, Martin Hyatt; Southside, Judy Weisenfels.
- Continue to hold meetings of the established District Title I/ACSIP Parental Involvement Committee to encourage parental involvement, implement parental involvement activities, and disseminate information to the community.

- Communicate opportunities to parents for participation in parental involvement programs, meetings, and other activities, including those activities and opportunities specific to families of English Learners, Migrant, and Students with Disabilities. Communication shall be, to the extent possible, provided in a language they can understand. For information concerning the English Language acquisition program, please contact Suzanne McPherson, Supervisor of Special Programs, Parker Center, 479.784.8182, Ext 3514.
- Develop a Parental Involvement Committee which consists of individuals who will create a parental involvement policy and implement parental involvement activities as well as disseminate information to the community to promote parental involvement in the Title I, Part A schools. Serving on the 2015-16 District Parent Involvement Council are parent involvement facilitators from each of the 26 schools (see names above), Dr. Sarah Biggs, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, Parent & Community Services Council Chair; Dr. Gordon Floyd, FSPS Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Barry Owen, FSPS Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services; Dr. Kellie Cohen, Director of Student Achievement and Accountability; Martin Mahan, Director of Secondary Education; Dr. Mary Ann Johns, Director of Elementary Education; Jeannie Cole, Board of Education member; Suzanne McPherson, Supervisor of ELA, Migrant, & Indian Education; Caroline Neel, Supervisor of Curriculum/Federal Programs, Mary Macon (community member) UAFS Division of Agriculture County Extension Agent-Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4H; Sharon Garcia-Aponte, (parent member); Noelia Lopez (parent member); Lisa Passmore (parent member); Tammy Roper (parent member).
- Conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the plan during the District Title I/ACSIP Parental Involvement Committee meeting through verbal input and a parental involvement survey. Persons responsible are Caroline Neel, Supervisor of Curriculum/Federal Programs, and Dr. Kellie Cohen, Director of Student Achievement and Accountability.

Goal 2: How will the district provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement?

The district will provide coordination, technical assistance and other supports necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement through the following:

- Designation of a highly qualified, certified staff member at each school to serve as the parent involvement facilitator.
- Ongoing site visits to observe parental involvement practices will be conducted by the building parent involvement facilitators.
- Hold bi-annual meetings of the District Parental Involvement Council
- Provide parents with the materials, training, and assistance needed for them to support their child's academic achievement. This may be accomplished through parent resource centers or other community based organizations.

- Educate staff in ways to work effectively with parents and clearly communicate goals for increased parental involvement.
- Reserve a minimum of 1% of the Title I Part A allocation, 95% going to district Title I schools, for parental involvement and involve parents in decisions related to the development of the parental involvement policy, including the school/parent compact.
- Encourage parental involvement at all buildings through organizations such as the Parent Teacher Association.
- Monitor each Title I, Part A school to ensure that each school performs the following tasks: Develop parental involvement policy, offer flexible meeting times, provide information to parents about the school's program, include parent information guide, develop and use the School/Parent Compact, provide training for parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement, to include training on the phone notification system in order to have real-time access to their child's attendance and achievement. Sarah Biggs, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, and the Parent and Community Services Council Chair, Parker Center, 479.784.8182, Ext. 3533 and Caroline Neel, Supervisor of Curriculum/Federal Programs, at Parker Center, 479.784.8182, Ext. 3542.

Goal 3: How will the district build the school's capacity for strong parental involvement?

The District will build the school's capacity for strong parental involvement by:

- Provide information to participating parents in such areas as national, state and local education goals, including parents' rights as defined in Title I, Part A through the District Report to the Public held in September 2015, by Dr. Benny Gooden, Superintendent of Fort Smith Public Schools.
- Providing information and support necessary to schools to enable them to plan and implement effective parental involvement programs and activities
- Educating staff in ways to build effective communication with parents through avenues such as parental engagement groups, surveys, activities that are planned for parental involvement and regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school.
- Encourage the formation of partnerships between school and local businesses such as the Partners in Education Program.
- Conduct a parental involvement survey during the annual District Title I/ACSIP Parental Involvement Meeting to include questions that identify barriers to parental involvement. Survey results will be compiled and analyzed then disseminated to parents, committee members, school principals, and district staff. Caroline Neel, Supervisor of Curriculum/Federal Programs will be responsible for the survey and dissemination of results.

Goal 4: How will the district conduct, with the involvement of parents, ongoing evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy as it relates to strategies for increasing parental participation and identifying barriers to greater participation?

The District will conduct on-going evaluation of the district parental involvement policy to ensure continuous improvement through:

- Input provided by the District Title I/ACSIP Parental Involvement committee, consisting of representatives from each school.
- Providing minutes to those members unable to attend the meeting(s) to encourage input and participation.
- Disseminating recommendations made by the committee to each committee member, school principal and district staff.
- Provide an opportunity for the parents to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures, including analysis of data collected through membership in the District Parent Involvement Council. Persons responsible are Sarah Biggs, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, and the Parent and Community Services Council Chair, Parker Center, 479.784.8182, Ext. 3533 and Caroline Neel, Supervisor of Curriculum/Federal Programs, at Parker Center, 479.784.8182, Ext. 3542.
- Develop and disseminate an annual parent activity evaluation report to share with parents, staff and the community. Following meetings with parents, an opportunity will be provided to allow input from parents concerning their evaluation of the meeting(s). The number of parents in attendance will be recorded and feedback from the evaluations compiled and disseminated.

Goal 5: How will the district involve parents in the joint development of the district Title I application under section 1112 (ACSIP)?

- Active recruitment of membership for the district level ACSIP/Title I Committee and the District Parent Involvement Council. Persons responsible are Sarah Biggs, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, and the Parent and Community Services Council Chair, Parker Center 479.784.8182, Ext. 3533 and Caroline Neel, Supervisor of Curriculum/Federal Programs, at Parker Center 479.784.8182 Ext 3542.
- Seeking input for the review and revision of the ACSIP related to parental engagement to ensure district effectiveness.