

Morrison Elementary School
3415 Newlon Rd
Ft Smith, AR 72904
(479) 782-7045

School Parent Involvement Policy (2018-2019)

This form was adapted from, *A Toolkit for Title I Parent Involvement*. Ferguson, C. (2009). *A Toolkit for Title I Parental Involvement*. Austin, TX: SEDL.

District

Fort Smith

School Improvement Status

As of October 1, 2018, the ADE has not designated a school improvement status for this school.

Grade Levels

K-6

Parent Involvement Coordinator

Sherri Ray

Are you Title I School wide?

Yes

Percent of free and reduced lunch

95.72%

Parent Involvement Committee Members:

Britney Ballin, Principal; Sherri Ray, Counselor/Parent Facilitator; Mayra Estrada, ELL Para; Amber Clarke, Teacher; Brenda Martin, Teacher; Sarah Mayer, Assistant Principal; Karen Ness, Parent.

List various communication strategies used in your school to provide additional information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instruction.

- Morrison Elementary will inform parents of upcoming activities, important dates, and share pictures and information related to these activities via the school Facebook and School Class Dojo accounts.
- The School will maintain a school Website that provides a school calendar and other pertinent information about the school. Parents may use email and Classroom Dojo to communicate with members of the school staff.
- The school will use the student handbook, school Website, and parent orientation meetings about the School-wide Title I Plan and how to get a copy upon request.
- School events will be promoted through the use of flyers for parents sent home with students, post notices in school facilities, and on the school Facebook and Class Dojo accounts.
- Each teacher will send home a folder containing student papers and work samples. Parents may be asked to sign the folder and send it back to school.
- Teachers will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate about their child's progress.
- The school will provide parents progress reports/report cards every four weeks regarding their child's academic progress. The school will also hold parent/teacher conferences in the Fall and Spring. (October 17 and 19, March 13 and 15)

Contact: Mrs Sherri Ray, School Counselor/Parent Facilitator at 479-782-7045 or email at sray1@fortsmithschools.org.

List proposed parent meetings, conferences and activities regularly throughout this year and the dates providing flexible meeting times that you have planned to increase parental involvement and build staff and parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts.

- The School Report to the Public and Open House for kindergarten through sixth grade was held on August 9, 2018. Parents and students met with teachers and received classroom information.
- The schools' annual Celebration Freedom Night was held on September 14, 2018.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held twice annually from 3:30-6:30 on October 16 and 18, 2018 / March 26 and 28, 2019. Parents will be given a summary of the student's test scores and an explanation of the interventions teachers are using to assist the child in reaching academic goals. Parents will be asked to engage in discussion of how they can support these efforts.
- A "Donuts for Dads" event will be held from 7:30 to 8:00 on October 26, 2018.
- The school will hold an annual Title One meeting for parents to inform them about the school's participation in the Title I program and to encourage parents to be involved with reviewing and revising of the School's Title I Plan. (5:00 to 5:30 on November 15, 2018)
- The school will hold a Parent/PTA Appreciation Night. (5:30 to 6:30 on November 15, 2018)
- The school will host a STEAM (Science, Technology, Art, and Math) Night for parents and their students to attend. (April 25, 2019)
- A "Muffins for Moms" event will be held from 7:30 to 8:00 on May 10, 2019.
- The School has a Family Literacy Program to enable volunteer parents to attend classes at the school to help them learn to speak English and learn about various teaching strategies in their students' classrooms. The school also provides free childcare services for parents who attend.
- Spanish speaking parents will be hosted for quarterly "Cafecitos." These informal breakfast and afternoon meetings will focus on providing parent resources and for listening to parent concerns. The School will share information to assist English Language Learners to achieve in school.
- Parent Teacher Association meetings and events will be held several times throughout year.
Contact person: Amber Clarke, PTA President. (479-782-7045)

Contact: Mrs Britney Ballin, School Principal at 479-782-7045 or email at bballin@fortsmithschools.org.

How will your school provide information to parents about volunteer opportunities?

- Morrison Elementary will provide a list of volunteer opportunities and solicit ideas for other types of volunteer efforts through surveys and parent meetings.
- STATE REQUIREMENT - Provide instruction to a parent on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation: role play and demonstration by trained volunteer, the use of and access to the Department of Education website tools for parents, assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation and other strategies or curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education.
- STATE REQUIREMENT (Staff Development) The State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts shall require no fewer than two (2) hours of professional development for teachers designed to enhance the understand of effective parental involvement strategies. No fewer than three (3) hours of professional development for administrators designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

Contact: Mrs Britney Ballin, School Principal at 479-782-7045 or email at bballin@fortsmithschools.org.

How will your school work with parents to create a School-Parent-Compact?

- School staff, parents, and students will develop a school-parent-student compact. This compact will outline how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. All stakeholders will sign the compact.

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How will your school provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of the school wide school improvement plan, and the Annual Title I Meeting to engage them in the decision-making processes regarding the school's Title I, Part A Program?

- The school will ask parents to serve on school improvement planning committees.
- The school will support the Parent Teacher Association which will foster parental and community involvement within the school. Contact person: Amber Clarke, PTA Pres.
- STATE REQUIREMENT - To take advantage of community resources, the school shall consider recruiting alumni from the school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance for school improvement.
- STATE REQUIREMENT - The school shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association that will foster parental and community involvement within the school.

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How will your school provide resources for parents?

- Parents may check out materials, use the computer to check grades, and visit educational Web sites. Parents will be encouraged to view the Title I Plan located in the parent resource center or media center. A suggestion sheet will also be available for parental input.
- STATE REQUIREMENT - The school will distribute Informational packets each year that includes a copy of the school's parental involvement plan, survey for volunteer interests, recommended roles for parents/teachers/students and school, suggestions of ways parents can become involved in their child's education, parental involvement activities planned for the current school year and information about the system that will be used to allow parents and teachers to communicate (notes, phone calls, e-mail...).
- STATE REQUIREMENT - To promote and support responsible parenting, the school shall, as funds are available: Purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting through the school library, advertise the current selection, and give parents the opportunity to borrow the materials for review.
- Maintain a parent center.
- STATE REQUIREMENT - Include in the school's policy handbook the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define a problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions.
- STATE REQUIREMENT - The principal of each school in a school district shall designate (1) certified staff member who is willing to serve as a parent facilitator.

Contact: Mrs Sherri Ray, School Counselor/Parent Facilitator at 479-782-7045 or email at sray1@fortsmithschools.org.

How will your school engage parents in the evaluation of your parental involvement efforts?

- The school will engage parents in the annual evaluation of the Title I, Part A Program's parental involvement efforts through an annual evaluation. The Title I committee, made up of teachers, parents and school staff, will determine the effectiveness of the parental involvement plan and make changes if warranted. Evidence collected about satisfaction with the program and the school's efforts to increase parental involvement may include the (1) growth in number of parents participating in workshops and meetings; (2) specific needs of parents; (3) effectiveness of specific strategies; and (4) engagement of parents in activities to support student academic growth.

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How will your school use the parent interest surveys to select, plan and implement parental involvement activities that will be offered throughout the year?

- The school will use the results of the parent interest surveys to plan the parental involvement activities for the year.

Contact: Mrs Britney Ballin, School Principal at 479-782-7045 or email at bballin@fortsmithschools.org.

When will your school plan the Annual Title I Meeting that must be conducted separately?

- The school will hold their annual Title I meeting separate from any other meetings or activities to ensure that they have ample time to provide a description/explanation of school curriculum, information on forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress and information on proficiency level students are expected to meet. For each Title I, Part A School, an Annual Title I Meeting must be conducted. The agenda, the sign-in sheet and the minutes for this meeting must be generated separately from any other events and kept on file in the school's office.
- Morrison Elementary will conduct an Annual Title I meeting for parents of all students who participate in the Title I program during the 2018-2019 school year. (November 15, 2018)

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