

Little Rock School District
2022-2023 Parent & Family Engagement Policy and Plan – ADE Approved

Parent & Family Engagement Committee/Action Team

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Charlene, Kirk, Parent Trainer/PTA Council, High
Carmen, Narvaez, Parent Trainer, Bilingual/LRSD ESOL, Elementary
Derrick, Rainey, Parent, Elementary
Jennifer, Thomas, Parent, LRSD AP/Gifted & Talented (High)
Greta, Freeman, Community
Vicki, Hatter, Community-Parent Trainer
Sadie, Kirk, Student, High
Ezekiel, Breshears Collins, Student, Middle
Isaiah, Breshears Collins, Student, Middle

The Little Rock School District will support programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents and families in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA/ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation and engagement with parents and families of participating children. The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental and family engagement and expects its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition: Parental and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring —

A) involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan under section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1111(d).

(B) provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education;

(C) coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs;

(D) conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying—

(i) barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited

literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);

(ii) the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and

(iii) strategies to support successful school and family interactions;

(E) use the findings of such evaluation in subparagraph (D) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies described in this section; and

(F) involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

The District and committee parents will jointly develop effective expectations and objectives for parental and family engagement by providing strategies to support partnerships among schools, parents and families, and the community to improve student achievement. To the extent practicable, the plan will be provided in the language that parents understand.

The district Parent & Family Engagement Committee and Action Team will provide input to support the development of the parent and family engagement policy and district and school improvement plans for state and federal compliance. The committee/action team will utilize the Johns Hopkins University National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) model to enhance parent participation and engagement in the school and community. The NNPS School, Family and Community Partnership model is designed to enhance parent participation, involvement and engagement in the school and community. The model is researched and evidenced based and references the Six Types of Involvement. The district and schools will utilize the six types of engagement: parenting, communication, volunteering, student learning, decision-making and community collaboration and other programs (i.e. Family Leadership, Inc.) may be provided to shape parent and family leaders through workshops to build and increase positive relationships between the parent, child, school, and community.

- The District will provide and assist parents with support and opportunities to submit comments regarding unsatisfactory implementation of the district and school plans. The comments will be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Engagement Unit. These comments can be sent to ade.engagementmatters@ade.arkansas.gov

Objectives and strategies for reaching the goal:

1. Continue to implement parental and family engagement policy and activities as well as disseminate information to the community to promote parental and family engagement throughout the District, i.e. social media, Parent Link/Blackboard, LRSD TV, LRSD Handbook, Schoology, etc.
2. Conduct an annual spring meeting with the Parent Engagement Committee/Action Team to update policy for the next year's Title I, Part A program, school improvement and District parent engagement. (May –June 2023)
3. Involve parents and families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the required "set-aside" of Title I, Part A funds will be used to support parent and family engagement activities. The committee will ensure that not less than 90% of the one percent requirement goes directly to the schools.
4. Coordinate parental and family engagement activities with those of other programs (i.e. Parent Teacher Association (PTA); early childhood; State education departments; ESOL, college and career education, health and wellness, mental health, safety, homeless, student services, alternative education, LRSD health clinics, community and district after-school programs).
5. Ensure that each Title I, Part A school will have a parent and family engagement contact person. Review the list of Parent Facilitators, Title I Parent Coordinators and Community School Site Coordinators, if applicable). (Link and Parent Facilitators List)
6. Conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the Title I, Part A parental and family engagement policy and school improvement plan annually by May or June.
7. Ensure that parents and families of children with disabilities or limited English proficiency have the same access as other parents and families including information in a language and form they can understand.
8. Adhere to providing mandatory reports and notices as outlined by Arkansas and Federal regulations.

9. Assist parents and schools in the development of Student Success Plans.
10. Ensure representation of parents and families of participating children are included in the process of implementation of the parent and family engagement plan and policy.
11. Provide a parent-friendly summary of the parent and family engagement plan online as a supplement to the LRSD Handbook. The District will annually file the plan with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education in the Indistar System on or before the required deadline

2: Building Staff Capacity

COMPONENTS OF THE LRSD READY FOR LEARNING PLAN

In order to ensure the continued well-being of our school community, the following guiding principles have been put in place:

1. Ensure a safe learning environment based upon the most current guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).
2. Ensure the continuity of teaching and learning by providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum that addresses unfinished learning from the prior year, introduces new learning while utilizing technology to enhance regular classroom instruction.
3. Support teachers in providing virtual and/or in-person instruction by providing training in technology, blended/hybrid learning (delivery of instruction), addressing social and emotional needs of students and self, and culturally responsive practices.
4. Provide guidance and support for educators, parents, families, and students in the areas of health, safety, and social emotional learning.
 - LRSD School-Based Health Clinics are available to eligible students in order to assist families with health and wellness needs and guidance. Health clinics are located at Chicot, Stephens, Wakefield (Dental) and Washington. Contact Mary Otwell, Coordinator, School-Based Health Clinics (Mary.Otwell@LRSD.org), or the clinic managers for more information and to determine eligibility.
5. Engage educators, parents, families, students, and the community. Strategies for reaching the goal:
 - Conduct ongoing site visits to observe parental and family engagement practices.
 - Provide materials and training not otherwise available to assist parents and families in supporting their child's academic achievement.
 - Enhance the awareness and skills of teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and staff in reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents and families as equal partners through annual professional development training and requirement for certification licensure.
 - Ensure, to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and form parents and families can understand. (Translators) (LRSD ESOL Department 501-447-3379)
 - Provide information on adult literacy training available in the community. (Larry Schleicher, Director, LRSD Adult Education, 447-1850)
6. Monitor schools to ensure that each school performs the following tasks:
 - a. Utilizes a compliance checklist to ensure the required components are implemented.
 - b. Updates the parental and family engagement policy.
 - c. Offers flexible meeting times.
 - d. Provides information to parents and families about the school's program, including parent and family information guides.
 - e. Develops and uses a School Parent and Family Compact.
 - f. The compact will discuss how parents, families, students, teachers, and administrators will work collaboratively to improve the academic achievement of the student.
 - g. Support the importance of the role of parents and families in setting high expectations for their child's performance, motivating students to achieve, and asking the right questions regarding what is happening at school.
 - h. Involves parents and families on committees and action teams as participants in decision-making capacities.
 - i. Provides families in transition the necessary information to support their child's well-being. Contact person: Dr. Sheketa McKisick (447-3350; sheketa.mckisick@lrdsd.org) or (Chandra Martin 447-3349;

chandra.martin@lrsd.org)

- j. Offer stakeholders meaningful volunteer opportunities (virtual/in-person) and provide any necessary information, screening, and/or training as required for specific volunteer placements. (ViPS office 447-4450)
7. Reinforce parenting skills to support the academic skills and their application in real-life situations.
8. Encourage parent and family involvement through volunteerism by providing information and/or training (virtual/in-person) to school staff in effective ways of utilizing family members as volunteers. Educate staff and volunteers of the policies and guidelines set forth by the Little Rock School District to encourage a mutually satisfying, safe, and productive support system for students and schools. The district will provide annual volunteer training for staff, parents, and community members. (ViPS office 447-4450) www.ViPSLRSD.org and ViPS@lrsd.org.
9. Encourage parent and family participation through innovative scheduling of activities through strategies such as holding meetings at a variety of times, such as morning and evenings, in order to maximize the opportunities for parents and families to participate in school-related activities (virtual/in-person).
10. Convene annual school meetings to inform parents and families of their school's participation in the development of the parental and family engagement policy and their right to be involved.
11. Provide families in transition the necessary information to support their child's well-being.

3: Building Parent Capacity

The District will build the school's capacity for strong parental and family engagement. Contact persons: Dr. Sheketa McKisick (447-3350) sheketa.mckisick@lrsd.org; Kaye Rainey (447-3358); kaye.rainey@lrsd.org).

<https://www.lrsd.org/domain/402>

Strategies for reaching the goal:

1. Per the LRSD Ready for Learning Plan, parents, families, and students will be offered virtual/in-person training or guidance in the following areas:
 - The District's Learning Management System (LMS) – Schoology
 - Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
 - Health and Safety Protocols
2. Provide information to participating parents and families in such areas as national, state, and local education goals, including parents' rights as defined in Title I, Part A.
3. Assist in the development of parent and family engagement activities at each school.
4. Encourage collaborative partnerships between schools, parents and family engagement organizations that includes a role for participation.
5. Provide resources for parents and families to learn about child development, child rearing practices, and academic strategies that are designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their child. Utilize the Six Types of Involvement (NNPS) and other the Parenting Partners model.
6. Involve parents and families through an annual survey to improve school effectiveness.
7. Approve reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental and family engagement activities.
8. Provide any reasonable support for parental and family engagement at the request of participating Title I, Part A parents.
9. Distribute information regarding the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Summary and Plan through the District's website, meetings, social media platforms, and District communication. Signatures may be requested during parent-teacher conferences and other avenues of parent engagement activities and media.
10. Collaborate with community partnerships to provide incentives and no-cost resources and information to increase parent and family engagement.
11. Collaborate with the District's Communication Department to broaden and provide appealing advertisement regarding parent and family engagement activities.

Additional ways to build parent capacity:

1. Recruit parents to serve on District School Improvement Committee to develop the Title I Application.
 - a. Parents may be selected from and by a core group of parents who are members of the Title I Parental and Family Engagement Committee.
 - b. Selected parent(s) will meet with the district team and share information with the Title I Parental and Family Engagement Committee and School Cluster Team meetings. The selected parent(s) will also share

- parent concerns about school improvement with the district leadership team.
- c. The three (3) Cluster Teams (Central-East, Southwest and West) are comprised of schools in the district (except the LRSD Early Childhood Centers and non-traditional facilities). Parents and families are invited to attend Cluster Team meetings to represent their child's school.
2. Involve parents and families in understanding strategies for assisting students identified as low achievers.
 - a. Provide information and workshops regarding core subject interventions for students.
 - b. Provide information and resources regarding curriculum and career readiness that are utilized throughout the district.
 3. Provide information to parents and families regarding the selection process of resource materials to be purchased by utilizing Title I funds.
 - a. Provide information regarding how the district distributes the Title I allocation to Title I schools.
 - b. Provide examples of grade level materials provided to the school parent and family center and for workshops.
 - c. Meet with the LRSD Parent and Family Engagement Committee/Action Team each semester to provide a list of suggested purchases for Title I parent engagement.
 4. Involve parents and families in District workshops regarding classroom strategies for identified students. (LRSD School Cluster Teams: Central-East, Southwest and West)
 - a. Provide information regarding technology available to students.
 - b. Provide information to parents and families regarding college and career opportunities for students.
 - c. Provide parents and families with information and resources regarding grade level transitions.
 5. Assist parents with understanding Student Success Plans (<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/learning-services/student-success-plan>) and DESE G.U.I.D.E for Life Program (Growth/Understanding/Interaction/Decisions/Empathy <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/learning-services/guide-for-life>. (Lequita Grayson, Coordinator, Counseling and Career Readiness)
 6. LRSD School-Based Health Clinics are available to eligible students in order to assist families with health and wellness needs and guidance. Health clinics are located at Chicot, Stephens, Wakefield (Dental) and Washington (Telehealth). Contact Mary Otwell, Coordinator, School-Based Health Clinics (Mary.Otwell@LRSD.org), or the clinic managers for more information and to determine eligibility." LRSD School Based Health Clinics
 7. Encourage parent and family involvement through volunteerism by providing information and/or training (virtual/in-person) to school staff in effective ways of utilizing family members as volunteers. Educate staff and volunteers of the policies and guidelines set forth by the Little Rock School District to encourage a mutually satisfying, safe, and productive support system for students and schools. The district will provide annual volunteer training for staff, parents, and community members. (ViPS office 447-4450) www.ViPSLRSD.org and ViPS@lrdsd.org.
 8. Coordinate parental and family engagement activities with those of other programs (i.e. Parent Teacher Association (PTA); early childhood; State education departments; ESOL, college and career education, health and wellness, mental health, safety, homeless, student services, alternative education, LRSD health clinics, community and district after-school programs and eligible private school parents). Little Rock School District (LRSD) schools, except the LRSD Early Childhood Centers (ECCs and non-traditional facilities), are members active of National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) Johns Hopkins University. However, where appropriate, all LRSD parents are included and invited to districtwide parent and family engagement events and activities. The NNPS School, Family and Community Partnership model is designed to enhance parent participation, involvement and engagement in the school and community. The model is researched and evidenced based and references the Six Types of Involvement. To support and carryout the School, Family and Community Partnership requirements, LRSD Parent & Family Engagement (PFE) unit organized three (3) Cluster Teams (Central-East, Southwest, and West) to provide engaging parent and family activities to support student success. Each team selected a team leader and recorder to collaborate within the LRSD PFE unit. (Kaye Rainey, Specialist, Parent & Family Engagement, 447-3358)

Six Types of Involvement: Keys to Successful Partnerships

TYPE 1 Parenting: Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students.

Also, assist schools to better understand families.

TYPE 2 Communicating: Conduct effective communications from school-to-home and from home-to-school about school programs and student progress.

TYPE 3 Volunteering: Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students. Provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.

TYPE 4 Learning at Home: Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

TYPE 5 Decision Making: Include families as participants in school decisions, and develop parent leaders and representatives.

TYPE 6 Collaborating with the Community: Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community.

Epstein, J.L., Sanders, M.G., Simon, B.S., Salinas, K. C., Jansorn, N. R., Van Voorhis, F.L. (2019). School, family, and community partnerships: Your handbook for action. Fourth Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc.

LRSD Events and Activities

The district will provide the following collaboration to continuously build parent and staff capacity. Many collaborations will be provided through online platforms.

- Parent Facilitators/Coordinators/Liaisons Training – Title I Crate August 2022
- District Parent & Family Engagement Review May-June 2023
- Midtown Health Alliance Bike with a Cop Community Event September 2022
- Partnering for Excellence: Home-School-Community Connections Back-to-School Parent Engagement Conference (School Cluster Teams) Fall 2022 and Spring 2023
- Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan due annually to AR Department of Education by August 1.
- School Parent Engagement Plans and Information Packet–Post to school's website annually by August 1
- Parenting Partners Leadership Train-of-Trainers and Parent Workshops October-December 2022 and January-February 2023
- LRSD-Learn Fresh Education NBA Math Hoops Parent & Student Engagement October 2022–March 2023
- District Parent Engagement Committee/Action Team Meeting February 2023
- National Title I Conference February 2023
- Partnering for Excellence: Home-School-Community Connections (Schoology, Grade Transition, Health & Wellness, College and Career, Technology and et al) October 2022 and April 2023
- Literacy including R.I.S.E. (Reading Initiative for Student Excellence) and Math parent trainings - Summer Materials Distribution May 2023
- R.I.S.E., Schoology, NBA Math Hoops Parent & Family Engagement (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)
- Parent Facilitators/Coordinators/Liaisons Training August 2022 and April 2023
- AR Parent Coordinators Conference March, 2023
- National Family and Community Engagement Conference July 2023
- Ongoing Parent Coordinator Training August 2022–July 2023
- Midtown Health Alliance/Southwest Hometown Health monthly community meetings August 2022-July 2023
- Parent Leadership Development Training Ongoing
- National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) Training for Parent Coordinators/Parent Facilitators/ Educators-Webinars Ongoing
- Parent Engagement Professional Development Ongoing
- Conversational Spanish Class – Optional TBD

4: Coordination

1. The district shall coordinate with community and business stakeholders to assist in providing supports and resources in the following ways.
 - a. Involve parents and families in understanding strategies for assisting students identified as low achievers.
 - b. Provide information and workshops regarding core subject interventions for students.
2. Provide information and resources regarding curriculum and career readiness that are utilized throughout the district.

3. Encourage collaborative partnerships between schools, parents and family engagement organizations that includes a role for participation and attendance.
4. Offer stakeholders meaningful volunteer opportunities and provide any necessary information, screening, and/or training as required for specific volunteer placements. (ViPS office 447-4450)
5. Collaborate with community partnerships to provide incentives to increase parent and family engagement.
6. Assist parents with understanding Student Success Plans.
7. Involve schools to engage in the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) Johns Hopkins University. The NNPS School, Family and Community Partnership model. The model is designed to enhance parent participation, involvement and engagement in the school and community. The model is researched and evidenced based and references the Six Types of Involvement. To support and carryout the School, Family and Community Partnership requirements, LRSD Parent & Family Engagement (PFE) unit organized three (3) Cluster Teams (Central-East, Southwest, and West) to provide engaging parent and family activities to support student success. Each team selected a team leader and recorder to collaborate within the LRSD PFE unit. (Kaye Rainey, Specialist, Parent & Family Engagement, 447-3358)
8. Involve other community partnerships to assist with shaping parent and family leaders through workshops to build and increase positive relationships between the parent, child, school, and community (i.e. Family Leadership, Inc., NBA Math Hoops, Parent Camps, etc.)
9. Collaborate with LRSD Community Schools - Community Schools, developed in partnership between the City of Little Rock and the Little Rock School District, show Little Rock's commitment to ensuring equitable support for our most vulnerable students and neighborhoods. The Community Schools model seek to address student and family needs by creating a network where community members, school leaders, and families work together to develop programs for supports and services. Currently, Community Schools operates in Chicot, Mabelvale, Stephens, Washington and Watson Elementary and Mabelvale Middle schools. Each school employs a Community School Site Coordinator. Contact: Mr. Marvin Burton, LRSD Special Assistant (marvin.burton@lrsd.org; 501-447-1202) LRSD Community Schools
10. Encourage stakeholders to review the Arkansas DESE website for additional and supportive information regarding the Family and Community Engagement Framework and Toolkit.
[https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Stakeholders/parents-and-families.](https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Stakeholders/parents-and-families)

5: Evaluation and Reservation

Parent & Family Engagement workshops, meetings, events, and activities will be held in accordance to CDC and LRSD guidelines. Virtual and/or in-person options will be offered.

The district will involve parents and families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the required "set-aside" of Title I, Part A funds will be used to support parent and family engagement activities. The committee will ensure that not less than 90% of the one percent requirement goes directly to the schools.

The district will provide the following:

- a. Information to parents and families regarding the selection process of resource materials to be purchased by utilizing Title I funds.
- b. Provide information regarding how the district distributes the Title I allocation to Title I schools.
- c. Provide examples of grade level materials provided to the school parent and family center and for workshops.
- d. Meet with the LRSD Title I Parent and Family Engagement Committee each semester regarding purchases made utilizing Title I funds.
- e. During the Annual Title I Meeting, schools should share with parents how Title I funds will be utilized.

The District will conduct, with the engagement of parents and families, ongoing evaluations of the content and effectiveness of the parental and family engagement policy as it relates to strategies for increasing parental and family participation and identifying barriers to greater parent and family participation. Utilize the NNPS six types of engagement. Contact persons: Kaye Rainey (447-3358), kaye.rainey@lrsd.org; and the Parent and Family Engagement Committee/Action Team.

Strategies for reaching the goal:

1. Survey parents and families annually, including questions to identify barriers to parental and family engagement.

2. Provide an opportunity for parents and families to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures, including analysis of data collected.
3. Develop procedures for collecting parent and family participation documentation through sign-in lists for workshops, meetings, and conferences; schedules; brochures; meeting notes; and other means as appropriate throughout the school year.
4. Use findings from evaluation processes to:
 - a. Make recommendations to each participating school for parent and family engagement policy revisions.
 - b. Provide suggestions for designing school improvement policies, as they relate to parental and family engagement.
 - c. Provide and assist parents with support and opportunities to submit comments regarding unsatisfactory implementation of the district and school plans. The comments will be submitted to the State.
5. Develop and disseminate an annual parent and family activity evaluation report to share upon request with stakeholders. Annual survey overall results were that parents prefer more technology, social emotional learning, health & wellness, and curriculum training to support their child.
6. The District shall review and approve each school's parent and family engagement plan.
7. Encourage involvement for schools to engage in the Johns Hopkins University National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) model. The model is designed to enhance parent participation, involvement and engagement in the school and community. The model is researched and evidenced based and references the Six Types of Involvement. To support and carry out the School, Family and Community Partnership requirements, LRSD Parent & Family Engagement (PFE) unit organized three (3) Cluster Teams (Central-East, Southwest, and West) to provide engaging parent and family activities to support student success. Each team selected a team leader and recorder to collaborate within the LRSD PFE unit. (Kaye Rainey, Specialist, Parent & Family Engagement, 447-3358).
8. Involve other community partnerships to assist with shaping parent and family leaders through workshops to build and increase positive relationships between the parent, child, school, and community (i.e. Family Leadership, Inc., NBA Math Hoops, Parent Camps, etc.)
9. Collaborate with LRSD Community Schools - Community Schools, developed in partnership between the City of Little Rock and the Little Rock School District, show Little Rock's commitment to ensuring equitable support for our most vulnerable students and neighborhoods. The Community Schools model seek to address student and family needs by creating a network where community members, school leaders, and families work together to develop programs for supports and services. Currently, Community Schools operates in Chicot, Mabelvale, Stephens, Washington and Watson Elementary and Mabelvale Middle schools. Each school employs a Community School Site Coordinator. Contact: Mr. Marvin Burton, LRSD Special Assistant (marvin.burton@lrdsd.org; 501-447-1202)
10. Encourage stakeholders to review the Arkansas DESE website for additional and supportive information regarding the Family and Community Engagement Framework and Toolkit.
<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Stakeholders/parents-and-families>.

For additional information:

State

- Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1701 et seq.
- Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement

Federal

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act, 114 P.L. 95, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6312, 6318, 6320