

PBSD PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2022

The PBSD works with parents and families to develop and review relevant plans, policies and strategies related to engagement through the numerous committees that have been developed. These committees include the Teacher Advisory Committee (TAC), the Student Advisory Committee (SAC), the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that each meet monthly to focus on the district goals in relation to their position.

The district's expectations for parent and family engagement are stated in the district's commitment to achieving the state-wide Arkansas Campaign for Grade Level Reading, R.I.S.E. (Reading Initiative for Student Excellence) and state mandated standards by:

- Building a culture emphasizing the importance of reading for our scholars, parents and the community Educating district parents about the importance of reading with their scholars at home
- Increasing access to books at home for our scholars
- Boosting professional development for district educators to sharpen the reading focus and instruction

The district's objectives for parent and family engagement are driven by our district's reading data. Reading is the benchmark of all the other disciplines, and reading proficiency by the end of the third grade is a critical milestone for our scholars to score at the exceeding and ready levels on state mandated tests, graduating from high school and being career ready.

The plan describes the district's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and builds the capacity of its Title I schools to succeed in reaching both district and school improvement goals. We know that gaps in educational opportunity and achievement will only be remedied when all stakeholders are involved: students, parents, families, and the community in the decision making. As further evidence of the district's commitment and expectations for parent and family engagement, two of our district's four core values that guide us are:

- 1) That active family engagement is vital to ensure continued academic success and growth and
- 2) Community knowledge, support, and participation are necessary to foster a high-performing school district.

To that end the district agrees to be governed by the following statutory definition of parent/family engagement, and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

- Parents/families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- Parents/families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- Parents/families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision- making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and parents
- Assist in carrying out other activities, such as those described in section 118 of ESSA and section 1010 and 1116 of ESSA.

To accomplish our goals the district has implemented the following reading initiatives:

Local barbers are literacy ambassadors for the district. These barbers periodically visit our schools, provide free haircuts and listen and share with our students. The aim is to promote reading as an activity that can be done beyond the classroom while increasing the amount of time boys read for fun. Free books are provided by the district to the barbers every month and the books can be taken home by the scholars so they can establish their own personal libraries.

The district also partnered with AR Kids Read and scholars were given free books. Bus reading caravans went to various communities and scholars were given free, age appropriate books.

The district has a district-wide reading initiative where every nine weeks students that read a minimum number of books receive a reading medallion, have their names printed in the local newspaper, and in the past have been admitted to an athletic event free of charge. Parents sign a literacy verification form that state they have not only listened to their child read, but read to their child as well.

Volunteer parents, grandparents, retired teachers and community members visit the schools and read to the scholars.

Free books are given away year round at the Parent Center.

The Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Public Library System has formed an innovative new partnership to increase access to more books and e-audiobooks for scholars.

The district's goals and objectives for parent and family engagement are also described in the schools' parent compacts which is consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA and School Improvement Plans. Parents are involved in the development of the district's parent and family engagement policy. To ensure adequate representation and engagement of parents and families of Title I children parents are involved in the following ways in the district parent and family engagement policy:

1. The district's Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) which consists of parents representing all schools in the district. The PAC convenes in May of every year for the purpose of assisting in the development, revision, review and evaluation of the plan for the upcoming school year. In addition, at the individual school sites there is a parental advisory group comprised of parents with children who attend Title I schools to collaborate and add input to the School Improvement/Title I. School wide Plan
2. Parents are involved at the individual school sites on School Improvement Committees.
3. Parents are surveyed either on the district web page, Survey Monkey or hard copies for input on specific needs which drives the District Parental Engagement Plan as well as the schools' Strategic Plans. Parents, families and the community are notified how to access the plan and the plan is in the student handbook, and available at Title I meetings, and parent/family orientation meetings.
4. A parent-friendly explanation of the parent and family engagement plan is placed on the district's website, as well as hard copies are available at the district office, each school site and is available as a supplement to parents at Open House, Title I meetings and parent/family orientation meetings. The plan will be made available to the families and local community by August 1st on the district's website. It will also be available to DESE via INDISTAR by August 1st. Sign-in sheets from the above mentioned meetings serve as parents acknowledging receipt of the plan.

At the Title I meeting parents can voice any concerns they might have concerning the school-wide LEA plan, and if there are any concerns those concerns are submitted to the state.

As indicated by the parent and family engagement committee members and their roles, the committee is diverse which reflects an adequate representation of district stakeholders. In addition, each school has a parent facilitator. Scheduled parent facilitator workshops are held each month.

The PBSD will provide the following training and technical assistance to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parental and family engagement activities by:

Providing Indistar training to Title I principals and parent facilitators for completing their parental engagement plans

Providing training to site based parent facilitators on Title I compliance issues

Informing parent facilitators of additional resources, such as DESE's parental engagement information, AR Ideas, etc

Providing training to principals and parent facilitators on how to engage parents throughout the school year Providing training to principals and parent facilitators on developing, implementing and reviewing all required parental engagement plans.

Providing training in the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; how to implement and coordinate parent programs; how to build ties between parents and the school

Technical assistance is provided by:

Conducting ongoing site visits to Title I schools to monitor implementation and compliance with Parental Engagement Plans

Conducting regular school awareness walks by administrative staff to observe parental and family engagement during the school day

Providing training to principals, parent facilitators and parent advisory groups on developing, implementing and reviewing all required parental engagement plans.

Our district VIPS Coordinator, along with the campus and district parent facilitator will provide training to volunteers in our community. A parent friendly summary of the district's engagement plan will also be available in the student handbook. Parents will sign acknowledging receipt of the district's parent and family engagement plan.

A district level decision was made for teachers to receive parental engagement training using building and district parent facilitators and compliance is checked by the Human Resources Department.

The District ESL person provides technical assistance (if needed) if there are communication issues and concerns of parents. Surveys, brochures, parent notes, the engagement plan and other documents are available in a language and format that parents and families can understand.

PBSD will with the assistance of its Title I schools build parent capacity by:

The PBSD will provide the following training and technical assistance to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parental and family engagement activities by:

Providing parental engagement workshops to Title I parent facilitators who are "Trainers of Trainers" for their schools. District curriculum and assessments will be presented and explained by counselors and building test coordinators.

Teaming with our Technology department to provide Technology Nights for parents and families to familiarize themselves with the different technology sites and devices that we are currently using. These include, but not limited to HAC, Edgenuity, Renaissance, Google Classroom, Chromebooks, ACT Aspire, District Website and Social Media platforms. Hot spots for wifi is made available for families who are in need.

Providing materials to Title I schools' parent centers such as: ACT Aspire Exemplars, Renaissance STAR Results, Refrigerator Curricular, Summer Learning Packs, free pamphlets and handouts.

Teaming with our Health Services Department to host a District Wide Health Fair focusing on mental and physical health for our families. Parents, stakeholders, business partners and local vendors will be invited to participate.

Hosting Parent Skills workshops with the assistance of local agencies. Our necessary resources will be made available in a "PBSD Resource Brochure" that will include resources for food, clothing, shelter, health care, etc.

The District ESL personnel provides technical assistance (if needed) if there are communication issues and concerns of parents. Surveys, brochures, parent notes, the engagement plan and other documents are available in a language and format that parents and families can understand.

The District coordinates and integrates programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, other organizations, businesses and community partners.

The District partners with Parents as Teachers (PAT), HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters), the Divine Nine, TOPPS (Targeting our People's Priorities with Service), AR Kids Read, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, UAMS, Arkansas Children's Hospital and other organizations to help create positive opportunities for learning and engaging the family.

The district also employs a Career Coach at the secondary level that hosts several activities throughout the year. These activities include a College, Career and Community Fair. The counselors at each school also plan career fairs and other events for the community to share with the students concerning post-graduation opportunities.

In addition to a counselor on every campus, the district also has a social worker assigned to each building. These social workers team with the families and teachers to ensure that the needs of each student is being met. These needs vary from social/emotional, clothing, food and/or shelter. There are numerous organizations in our community that assist the district in meeting these needs. Jefferson County has several food pantries and shelters for those in need.

The parent facilitator for each school along with the district parent facilitator will meet and conduct peer reviews of the individual schools' plan. This meeting will take place in the spring of each school year. After this meeting and consulting with other parent facilitators, the district engagement coordinator will approve the plan.

The District reserves a minimum of 1% of the Title I, Part A allocation for parental engagement, with 90% going to Title I, Part A schools receiving \$500,00 or more of Title I funding. The district determines the amount of the 1% set aside for each school in the district using input from parents, staff, students, and community stakeholders from needs assessment data.

2022-2023 funds will provide for reasonable, necessary costs of parent and family engagement activities, parenting nights, parenting resources and provide more support to schools with highest needs.

Kelvin Gragg, Assistant Superintendent, oversees the allocation of funds with suggestions from administrators, the district parent coordinator, principals, and parent committees at the schools.

Parents and families engage in the allocation of the Title I, Part A funds for parental engagement at Title I schools and at the Parent Advisory Committee Meetings..

The district will conduct an annual evaluation and HRS Parent Survey to help identify barriers, needs, and strategies for improving the academic quality of all schools. The surveys are available on the district website and Facebook page, as well as, the school's website and Facebook page. Students also take home letters with the link to the surveys. The results from these surveys will in turn, be used to create a more effective parental engagement plan.

The district will ensure the funded activities and strategies are consistent with the district PFE policy. The district's plan will also be reviewed and updated annually and placed on the district's website by August 1st.