

Lawrence County School District
508 East Free Street
Walnut Ridge AR 72476
870-886-6634

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Plan

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

1. The Lawrence County School District will work with parents and families to develop and review relevant plans, policies, and strategies related to engagement, including establishing expectations and objectives. The LCSD will recruit parents for the LCSD Parent and Family Engagement Committee. Recognizing that parents should be full partners in the decisions that affect their children and family, and that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning, the district parental engagement committee will be comprised of both staff and parents. The committee will create a plan that is comprehensive and coordinated in nature and one that supports meaningful two-way communication between home and school. Dyan Heard will ensure the completion of this action.

The district Parent and Family Engagement Committee shall:

- ♦ • Develop a District Parent and Family Engagement Plan
- ♦ • Implement District Parent and Family Engagement activities
- ♦ • Submit the Parent and Family Engagement Plan in Indistar by August 1
- ♦ • Place the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan on the district website by August 1
- ♦ • Disseminate information to the community to promote parent and family engagement in the Title I, Part A schools.

Parents will be part of the District Parent Engagement Committee. The team will be responsible for leading the review, revision (when necessary) and implementation of policies regarding every aspect of school improvement.

2. The district will host an annual Title I Meeting each spring to discuss any changes that have occurred in the program during the school year and updates that need to be made for the coming school year. Parents are invited to attend and are involved in decisions regarding how funds are allotted for activities. (Lawrence County School District receives less than the required amount of funds for set-aside and Walnut Ridge High School is not a Title I school). For the 2024-202 school year, this meeting will be held in June. LCSD will host an annual Title I meeting during the fall each year. These meetings may provide information to parents about curriculum, the parent's right to request information pertaining to the professional qualifications of teachers; the state of the school as reported on the Annual Report Card; student assessment reports; the school's progress in comparison to other districts; complaint procedures regarding Title I issues; the right of disabled parents to request aids for communication with the school; the Parent Engagement Plan; and the School-Parent Compact.

3. Since we are a small school district, members of the Family Engagement Committee also participate in the School Improvement Committee. The committees will ensure that all parents have the opportunity to play an active role in the school improvement process. These opportunities may occur through surveys, parent meetings, school-wide and/or district-wide meetings, etc.

4. Our parent involvement in activities supported by the school is awesome; however, due to COVID-19 and background checks for parent volunteers, our parent volunteers' involvement has decreased significantly. Our goal for this year is to increase our parent volunteer involvement.

2: Building Staff Capacity

1. The LCSD will provide support and technical assistance to WRES in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices by including:

- • Jointly-developed school parent and family engagement plans
- • Implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance
- • Jointly-developing a school-family compact

2. Ensure the awareness and enhance the skills of teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, to work with parents as equal partners, so that ALL staff are aware of:

- • 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

3. Instruction and communication are accomplished in a variety of ways during teacher meetings, through emails. Translations are available as needed to help teachers fully communicate with and meet the needs of all parents.

- • Provide training at least annually for volunteers.
- • Provide parent-friendly summaries and copies of the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan to any stakeholder who wishes a copy. Signatures from parents acknowledging the receipt of the plan will be maintained.
- • Provide a copy of the school policy at each school for parents to view as well as provide a copy to each parent. In addition, the district and each school's parent and family engagement plan is posted on the school website.
- • Ensure that parents of children with disabilities or limited English proficiency have the same access as other parents including information in a language and form, they can understand.
- • Ensure, to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and form parents can understand. Every effort is made to reach parents with pertinent information, and when necessary informational content is translated for better communication. Print, phone messages, e-mail, website, school's Facebook pages, and Remind app are all utilized as modes to reach parents. Building Principals are responsible for ensuring that this happens. Contact your child's principal's office.

3: Building Parent Capacity

1. LCSD will provide any reasonable support for parental involvement at the request of parents of the schools in the district. LCSD will involve parents through regularly scheduled parent and community engagement meetings, Remind (Parent-Teacher App), and surveys to improve school effectiveness. During these meetings, parents will be provided a description and explanation of the curriculum used in the school, types of assessment, proficiency levels and information about national, state and local goals including parents' rights as defined in Title I, Part A.

2. The district will designate one certified staff member for WRES and WRHS to serve as a parent involvement facilitator to coordinate with other school programs, faculty and parents to provide training for staff and parents

promoting and encouraging parental involvement. The building parent facilitator and coordinator will maintain and provide the Parent Center with age-appropriate information regarding child development, general parenting skills, literacy training, using technology, and the importance of school attendance. Parents are offered a variety of training including using technology, anti-bullying, and safe online practices. Sessions are designed at the building level by the need's assessment, feedback, and age appropriateness. Materials providing academic support will also be available. The District will assist schools in the development of parent engagement groups by providing resources, information, and support.

3. The District provides multiple access points for two-way communication with family members of all demographics. Outreach is conducted using email, phone calls, face to face visits during open house and conferences, social media, and/or the Lawrence County School District website and the Remind app. These resources can be used by parents as a source of information for events, activities and district/campus information. The Lawrence County School District Website has additional information and links regarding Curriculum, State Standards, and a Home Access Link (HAC) for parents to view grades and attendance on a regular basis.

4: Coordination

The LCSD will develop relationships with a variety of partners including alumni, elected officials, businesses, and other educational organizations for the purpose of whole child advocacy by: LCSD will encourage and support parents by providing a parent resource center. LCSD will support and promote transition activities from Pre-K through twelfth grade by working collaboratively with programs such as Head Start, First

Baptist Day Care, and Arkansas Better Chance at the lower grade levels and community colleges, state universities and technical schools at the upper grade levels. Lea Andra Foster, WRES Principal, and Cameron Priest, WRES Counselor, will be responsible for transitions at the Pre-K level and Jacob Kersey,

WRHS Principal, will be responsible for transitions at the secondary level. Our district has a Parent Resource Center that parents can access. The Parent Center has a library of parent resource materials and teachers can give prescriptions to parents to be filled by the parent center staff to reinforce classroom lessons/ activities.

Coordinating supports through a variety of partners including health, social service, law enforcement, non-profit, civic, and faith organizations. LCSD works collaboratively with counselors from mental health, local law enforcement officials, Kiwanis, Key Club, Senior Citizens Centers, WRHS Alumni, Mayor Snapp, and several local churches. We also have a Food Backpack program, Clothing Closet, Hygiene Products, Christmas Adopt a Child, and School Supplies (Stuff the Bus).

Engaging in workforce development, internships, and community service through business and industry partnerships...WRHS partners with Arkansas CTE and Black River Technical College to provide workforce readiness opportunities, internships and industry certifications. BRTC is now offering "a grow your own Teachers" Teacher Residency Program for LCSD Juniors and Senior. WRHS conducts an annual career fair where students are exposed to information and opportunities with local businesses, colleges, industries, and the military. Debbie Findley (WRHS Counselor) and Abby Tyler (Career Coach) assures that students also have opportunities to participate in career exploration and college visits throughout the school year. We also have a Food Backpack program, Clothing Closet, Hygiene Products, Christmas Adopt a Child, and School Supplies (Stuff the Bus) that allow children to be ready for school and able to focus on learning.

5: Evaluation and Reservation

1. The district will conduct an annual review of the Parental Engagement policies to examine their effect on promoting higher student achievement. This will be done by a committee consisting of parents and school staff. As part of this evaluation, a report will be generated that lists the different activities offered during the year. The committee will determine how beneficial those activities were to parents and the program. The committee will approve the Engagement Plan. The Parent Engagement policies will be part of the District's Title I plan and distributed to the district's parents and community through student handbooks and the district website by August 1st.
2. Parents will be surveyed annually in August, including questions to identify barriers such as economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background that keep parents from being involved in their child's education. Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in the development of the evaluation procedures, including the analysis of data collected during parent/teacher conferences, other meetings and events, and/or online. Procedures will be followed for collecting parent participation documentation through sign-in sheets, minutes, and agendas for workshops, meetings, and/or conferences during the school year. The district plan will be reviewed and updated by August 1 to identify not only barriers but also the needs of parents and families to assist with the learning of the child(ren) and strategies to support successful school and family interactions in order to improve the academic quality of the schools. Dyan Heard (Parent Center Facilitator) and Lindsey Romine (Parent Center Coordinator) will ensure the completion of this activity.
3. Using findings from the evaluation process, the LCSD will make recommendations to each participating school for parental engagement policy revisions and provide suggestions for designing evidence-based strategies for school improvement, as they relate to parental engagement. Such findings and recommendations from the evaluation process will be shared with families through revised parent-friendly school engagement plans and during the annual Title I meeting each September.
4. LCSD does not receive a Title I, Part A allocation greater than \$500,000 and is not required to include a description of its reservation of funds; however, the district still values parental input regarding how funds are spent.
5. LCSD and WRES provides opportunities for the parents to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures through meetings and conferences, including analysis of data collected. The LCSD will conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the Parental Engagement Plan thereby improving the academic quality of the school. Brady and Lindsey Romine will be responsible for this action.