

6.12—PARENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - SCHOOL

Each Campus in the Benton School District understands the importance of involving parents, families, and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the school and those it serves. Therefore, each School shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parent, family, and community engagement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, families, and the community. To achieve such ends, the school shall work to:

1. Involve parents, families, and the community in the development and improvement of Title I programs for the school;
2. Have a coordinated engagement program where the engagement activities of the school enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPY, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs, and Even Start;
3. Explain to parents, families, and the community the State's academic and achievement standards, State and local student assessments and how the school's curriculum is aligned with the state's academic standards and assessments and how parents, families, and the community can work with the school to improve students' academic achievement;
4. Provide parents and families with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The school may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parental involvement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
5. Educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent, family, and community engagement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents, families, and the community;
6. Keep parents, families, and the community informed about parent, family, and community engagement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand;
7. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents and families from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
8. Find and modify other successful parent, family, and community engagement programs to suit the needs of our school;
9. Train parents, families, and the community to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents, families, and members of the community;
10. Provide reasonable support for other parent, family, and community engagement activities as parents, families, and the community may reasonably request.

To help promote an understanding of each party's role in improving student learning, each school shall develop a compact that outlines the responsibilities of parents, students, and the school staff in raising student academic achievement and in building the partnerships that will enable students to meet the State's academic standards.

Each school shall convene an annual meeting, or several meetings at varying times if necessary to adequately reach parents and families of participating students, to inform parents and families of the school's participation in Title I, its requirements regarding parent, family, and community engagement and the parents' right to be involved in the education of their child.

Each school shall, at least annually, involve parents, families, and the community in reviewing the school's Title I program and parent, family, and community engagement policy in order to help ensure their continued improvement.

This policy shall be part of the school's Title I plan and shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 6318
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1702
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1703
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1704
 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Parental
Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement

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