

Smackover Elementary School (SES) Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2017-2018

Smackover Elementary School recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire time a child spends in school. To support the goal of Smackover Elementary School to educate all students effectively, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners. Parents, who are diverse in culture, language, and needs, are important to provide for the educational success of their children. Engaging parents is essential to improve student achievements. Smackover Elementary School has developed this plan to foster and support active parental involvement.

Smackover Elementary School shall encourage communication with parents.

1. SES prepares an information packet which is given to parents each school year. This packet includes:
 - a. The SES Student Handbook which contains rules and regulations that govern student activities is available on the school website (www.smackover.net). Parents may have a paper copy if requested.
 - b. The SES Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The recommended role of the parent, student, teacher, and school. (Also, on website)
 - c. Ways for parents to become involved in his or her child's education.
 - d. A volunteer survey.
 - e. Activities planned to encourage parental involvement.
 - f. A system to allow parents and teachers to communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful way.
 - g. Curriculum Maps detailing what is taught at each grade level each month are on the district website. (On web-site)
 - h. A district calendar is provided to parents.
2. Activities to promote communication include:
 - a. Smackover School District Annual Report to the Public
 - b. Open House
 - c. Parent/Teacher Conferences—two per year.
 - d. School newsletters, notes, and monthly calendars are sent home with students.
 - e. "Alert Now" phone calls on important events.
 - f. Smackover School website www.smackover.net
 - g. HAC (Home Access Center) for parents to use to check their child's grades online (Link on school website.)

- h. "Buckaroo Blog" on Smackover School website or <http://thebuckaroblog.wordpress.com/>
- i. Smackover Elementary facebook page: Smackover Elementary School/PTO.

Smackover Elementary School shall promote and support responsible parenting.

1. SES has purchased parenting books and other materials and placed these materials in the SES library.
 - a. Selections from the library are advertised in newsletters.
 - b. Parents may borrow these materials.
 - c. Curricula materials parents may use include textbooks, and library books.
2. Workshops from the Center for Effective Parenting are available for parents.

To help families in assisting their children, SES schedules regular parent involvement meetings at which parents are given a report on the state of the school. And an overview of the curriculum students will be learning, how students will be assessed (e.g. DIBELS, DRA, teacher made assessments, etc.) what a parent should expect for his or her child's education and how a parent can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education. These meetings include:

1. Smackover School District Annual Report to the Public
2. Open House
3. Parent/Teacher Conferences
4. Music Programs/ with School update report
5. Updates, reminders, and notices of additional activities are sent home monthly on a school calendar.

Smackover Elementary School welcomes parents into the school.

1. SES shall not have any school policies or procedures that would discourage a parent from visiting the school or from visiting a child's classrooms.
2. SES compiles a volunteer resource book listing the interests and availability of volunteers. Volunteers are trained annually.
3. Parents are encouraged to volunteer at least one day per year at the school.
4. Activities to welcome parents and families to school include:
 - a. Open House
 - b. Music Programs
 - c. Family Night

Smackover Elementary School recognizes that a parent is a full partner in the decisions that affect his or her child and family.

1. SES includes in the SES Student Handbook the process for resolving parental concerns including how to define a problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions.
2. Parental participation is encouraged during parent/teacher conferences.
3. SES has a parental involvement advisory committee that includes parents, school alumni, and teachers, which provides advice for parental involvement and school improvement.
4. Smackover School District holds an annual Title 1 meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title 1, Part A. Parents are involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title 1 program.

Smackover Elementary School recognizes that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices and school learning.

1. SES has a Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO).
2. SES staff is encouraged to use the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources.
3. Each grade level is encouraged to partner with a local business to visit, for speakers, and career awareness.
4. A School and Community Calendar, which makes parent aware of opportunities in the community, is sent home at the beginning of the year

Smackover Elementary School has a certified faculty member as parent facilitator to help organize training for staff and parents, to promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere and to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school.

1. Ruth Strauch is the SES parent facilitator.
2. SES has a volunteer training for parents who assist at school.