**2019-2020**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **District:** | **Superintendent:** |
| East Poinsett County School District | Michael Pierce |
|  | **District Coordinator:** |
|  | Tabitha Thacker |
|  | tthacker@epc.k12.ar.us |

**Committee Members, Role:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Role** | **Member** | **Role** |
| Tabitha Thacker | Coordinator |  |  |
| Marla Blain | Facilitator | Jessica Rogers | Guardian |
| Michelle Jones | Facilitator | Sandra Benton | Guardian |
| Terri Hicks | Facilitator |  |  |
| Brenda Pittman | SPED Teacher |  |  |

​**1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives**

*​***Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?**

1. East Poinsett County School District has a Parent and Family Engagement Committee that develops and disseminates a district family engagement plan each year to implement family engagement activities as well as disseminate information to the community to promote family engagement in the Title 1, Part A schools. The committee is comprised of a diverse group of parents, staff from multiple grade levels, and administration. The district will ensure that all families are represented by personally inviting them to serve on the committee. The committee will meet two times a year (September and February, virtual if necessary) to review the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy. The committee will also identify barriers and promote alternative avenues to increase participation by parents. This policy will be available to parents, guardians and community members through the district's website (epc.k12.ar.us) and attached to the school's handbook. Tabitha Thacker - tthacker@epc.k12.ar.us

2. East Poinsett County School District will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under the ***Every Child Succeeds Act***. The committee intends to involve parents and the community to create a successful, long range plan for the district.

    The district will:

• Have available, materials and training for parents they need to help their student be successful

• Have a parent resource area available to encourage parental involvement and provide literacy and technology training for parents

• Educate school staff, with parental input and assistance, in ways to communicate with parents and to implement parental involvement that creates positive partnerships between the schools and parents

• Keep parents/guardians informed about parental involvement programs, meetings and other activities

• Find ways to eliminate the barriers that keep parents/guardians from being involved in their student's education.

• Train parents/guardians and volunteers to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents

• Encourage parent initiated interactions at home

• Provide support for involvement activities

3. East Poinsett County School District has a family engagement contact person at each of the Title 1, Part A schools.

EPC High School – Marla Blain –mblain@epc.k12.ar.us

EPC Lepanto Elementary – Michelle Jones – mjones@epc.k12.ar.us

EPC Tyronza Elementary – Terri Hicks-thicks@epc.k12.ar.us

EPC District Parental Involvement - Tabitha Thacker - tthacker@epc.k12.ar.us

East Poinsett County School District will conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the family engagement policy. Tabitha Thacker, District Family Engagement Coordinator, will collaborate with the school staff, and other stakeholders to revise all district policies to meet current requirements. Tabitha Thacker - tthacker@epc.k12.ar.us

4. East Poinsett County School District holds an Open House (2020 will be virtual) before the beginning of each school year. These meetings provide parents/guardians with the information they need to help their student be successful. Each parent signs an information packet acknowledging the receipt of the following:

• School Handbook (with Parental Involvement plan attached)

• Schedules

• Parent/Student Contracts

• Calendars

• Procedures

• Activities

• Surveys

• Volunteer forms

5. In the second meeting of the year, the committee will evaluate the current plan, for improvements for the following year, by using input from parents and families in the form of an online or paper survey. The survey results will be used to review the effectiveness of the current plan that continues to promote higher student achievement.

6. The District Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be updated and available by August 1st each year on Indistar and at epc.k12.ar.us.

**2: Building Staff Capacity through Training and Technical Assistance**

*​***Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?**

1. East Poinsett County will enhance the awareness and skills of teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and staff in reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents as equal partners. The district ensures that staff members work collaboratively with other teachers in their grade/department. Together with their group, staff members discuss family engagement including communication, activities, etc. Sandi Carroll – scarroll@epc.k12.ar.us; Hunter Bryan – hbryan@epc.k12.ar.us; Brian Weathers – bweathers@epc.k12.ar.us

2. East Poinsett County will ensure, to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and form parents can understand. Parent information sent home will be translated as needed, often in Spanish. Interpreters will be available to assist in communication with parents as needed. Person responsible: Payton Weathers - pweathers@epc.k12.ar.us

3. The Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator will work with the building committee in each Title 1, Part A school to ensure that each school performs the following tasks:

    • Develop Family Engagement Policy – The policy is developed district wide with the assistance of the family engagement committee, and the Parent and Family Engagement Plan that is posted to the website is a supplement to the student handbook and is formatted in a parent-friendly summary/explanation., and how to access the plan is sent home with each student.

    • Offer flexible meeting times – In addition to the scheduled parent teacher conference times, conferences are scheduled at the request of the parents. (virtual if necessary)

    • Provide information to parents about the school's program, include parent information guide.

    • Develop and use the School-Parent Compact. It is distributed and collected annually to each school.

    • Provide training for parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement, to include training on the phone notification system and the virtual academy available in order to have real-time access to their child's attendance and achievement.

    • Each school will offer multiple opportunities for family engagement. (virtual if necessary)

    • Tabitha Thacker – tthacker@epc.k12.ar.us

4. East Poinsett County School District, parents, and students have developed a school-parent-student compact that is distributed with the Student Handbook. The compact outlines how parents, students and staff share the responsibility for student success and improvements in their academic career. All stakeholders sign the compact by the end of the first week of school. Tabitha Thacker - tthacker@epc.k12.ar.us

5. East Poinsett County School District will conduct ongoing site visits to observe family engagement practices (when can be done safely using CDC guidelines). School Calendars, Family engagement plans, announcements and events are posted on the school website, along with announcements on the school's social media sites and the electronic signs in front of the schools. District staff will participate in numerous building family engagement activities each school year such as Literacy & Math Nights, Parent Conferences, Open House, Senior Night, Fall Festival, WinterFest, movie nights, field trips, holiday breakfast/lunches, banquets, College & Career Nights (TBD using current CDC and state guidelines). Family Engagement practices are discussed at staff meetings. Marla Blain – mblain@epc.k12.ar.us

6. The district will ensure minimum required professional development hours are met by all licensed staff each year.

7. Yearly training for volunteers will occur following Open House for each building.

8. A copy of the District Parent & Family Engagement Plan can be found on the school's website. A link to the plan is sent out via text, posted on the district's social media sites (Facebook & Twitter), and paper copies are available if preferred.

9. Instructions on how to locate the Parent & Family Engagement Plans can be found in the beginning of the year packets students receive with their parent-school-student compacts. By signing the compact, parents acknowledge that they received access to the district's plan.

**3: Building Parent Capacity**

*​***Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?**

1. East Poinsett County will provide information to participating parents in such areas as national, state, and local education goals, including parents' rights as defined in Title 1, Part A. The building principals will meet each month to discuss various topics including family engagement The school district will hold a Title 1 parent meeting annually. Educational goals are discussed on each campus during parent activities. Jamie Carpenter – jcarpenter@epc.k12.ar.us; Payton Weathers – pweathers@epc.k12.ar.us

2. East Poinsett County will assist in the development of parent engagement groups at each school. Each school has a parent organization. Tabitha Thacker - tthacker@epc.k12.ar.us

3. East Poinsett County will involve parents through an annual survey to improve school effectiveness. Parents will complete surveys annually to voice opinions about the effectiveness of the school via paper and pencil. Person Responsible: Tabitha Thacker – tthacker@epc.k12.ar.us

4. East Poinsett County will provide any reasonable support for family engagement at the request of participating Title 1, Part A schools. Through the school improvement process (ACSIP) the needs of each school are identified and plans are developed to meet the needs of the school. The district provides on-going support to schools to ensure quality family engagement programs. Jennifer Fithen – jfithen@epc.k12.ar.us; Sandi Carroll – scarroll@epc.k12.ar.us; Hunter Bryan – hbryan@epc.k12.ar.us

5. During the annual public meeting, data from state & standard assessments are desegregated & explained to parents. Meetings on how to read ACT & previous year's test data is available during parent-teacher conferences, as well as general & specific skills for individual students.

6. East Poinsett County provides several resources (materials & training) to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. Resources such as: Tips & tricks meeting during Math & Literacy nights (elementary), supplemental resources (flash cards, books, etc.) sent home for parents to use with their children (elementary), parental resources linked on the district's website, training to help parents with their virtual student(s), and one-on-one training for parents (when requested).

***​*4: Reservation and Evaluation**

*​***Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?**

1. Each school in East Poinsett County School District is a Title I school. The district will reserve at least 1% of district allocation and ensure that it is spent on parental engagement activities.

2. East Poinsett County School District will:

* Ensure Parent and Family Engagement committees, parents and community stakeholders are  involved in the decisions regarding how funds reserved for parent and family engagement are allotted for activities
* Funded activities and strategies are consistent with the district's engagement plan
* An annual evaluation is conducted to identify barriers, needs and effective strategies
* Use evaluation results to implement evidence based strategies to develop more effective parental involvement
* Review and approve the plan for each school
* Ensure the updated plan is complete and uploaded by August 1 each year
* Tabitha Thacker (tthacker@epc.k12.ar.us)

**5: Coordination**

*​***Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?**

East Poinsett County School District will work to coordinate family engagement activities with those of other programs such ABC preschool program, ACT Aspire, Life Strategies, Families, Inc., Virtual Academy, Arkansas Northeastern College (ANC), Arkansas State University at Newport (ASUN), TRIO, First Community Bank, area churches, parent associations, and GT-STEM. Opportunities will be offered to transition students from preschool to kindergarten, and from elementary to junior/senior high. Tabitha Thacker - tthacker@epc.k12.ar.us

All meetings/trainings may be moved to virtual or rescheduled due to current state and CDC guidelines.