

AR
Dierks School District
P.O. Box 124
Dierks AR 71833
870-286-2191

District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

NEW this year!! Your 19-20 plan has been populated below. Please make revisions or delete and paste your updated plan for 20-21, as it will be carefully reviewed for meeting the new expectations as outlined in the webinar "[Key Components to an Approved FACE Plan](#)".

District Name:	Dierks
Coordinator Name:	Kayla Jones
Plan Review/Revision Date:	8/22/2020
District Level Reviewer, Title	Federal Programs Coordinator

Committee Members, Role:

(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)

First Name	Last Name	Position
Crystal	Smith	Chairman/High School Counselor
Karla	Bray	Elementary Counselor
Lori	Finley	Elementary Principal
Adriana	Hogg	Parent
Gene	Strode	High School Principal

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

(Describe/List the District expectations and objectives for parent and family engagement. Describe/List how parents will be involved in the development of the district parent and family engagement policy. Describe/List how parents will be involved in the development and review of the School Improvement/Title I Schoolwide/Title I Targeted Assistance Plan and, if applicable, the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plans. Describe/List how the District will submit to the State comments from parents who deem the LEA Plan unsatisfactory.)

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

Dierks School District will involve parents in the development of the districts parent and family engagement plan, school wide program plan, and support and improvement plans. The district makes a special effort to involve all parents, and recognize community diversity and to work for inclusion through participation. We encourage parents to become effective partners with the school indecision making, reviews, and being advocacy roles for improvement. Dierks School District Parent and Family Engagement Plan Committee Members are compiled of staff members and parents. The committee is representative of our student's population and their families. By establishing district expectations and goals, we strive to ensure meaningful involvement that meets our students and their families' specific needs. Policies that support and respect family responsibilities will be established. These policies will recognize the variety of parent traditions and practices within the community's cultural and religious

diversity are reflective of student and family needs. The districts parents and family engagement committee thrives to implement family engagement activities, as well as disseminate information to the community that will provide family and parent engagement in Title I. We work to communicate information about programs, services and needs to the community. The Districts Parent and Family Engagement Plan is available to the families and the local community. The plan will be posted on the website, in the student handbook, and addressed annually at the JoAnn Walters Elementary Title I meeting, which takes place during Open House. Due to Covid-19 we are discussing a virtual open house.

In addition to the plan and our district calendar, newsletters are sent home in the parent's home language along with a menu and calendar of events for the month, so families will have information and something to reference. We also use Remind messages, classroom notes and the school sign, along with social media, live stream, and our mass call system. The plan is published on the school website, and filed with the Department of Education by August 1st each year. In addition, there is a parent-friendly summary/explanation of the parent and family engagement plan on the district website and as a supplement to the student handbook. Student handbooks are accessible online, or can be requested through the building offices. Dierks adequately shares information from the school with parents as well as take home and return student work requiring parental attention. Dierks School District encourages membership in parent groups, such as PTO. The school provides understandable, accessible, and well-published processes for influencing decisions, raising issues or concerns, appealing decisions, and resolving problems. The district works hard to ensure adequate representation of parents and families of participating children in the process. Online surveys are available at each parent teacher conference. Computers are set up in various places. Staff is present to encourage parents to participate, as well as to assist if needed. Surveys are created by building principals. We have recently made changes to our website. We are now able to connect to families faster through instant communication via text, call, live feed and social media pages that are connected to the school. This is a going to play a vital role in reaching families during this school year.

Last year JoAnn Walters Elementary took a different approach to Open House in order to reach more parents. In the past, classroom teachers were listed outside the school so parents could take their kids by the school and see who their teacher would be for the upcoming year. In order to reach more parents, teacher lists were not posted, but kept inside the building where parents/students were given this information during Open House enrollment. Parents were also led through a series of stations that allowed them to fill out important paper work such as free and reduced lunch forms, student data forms, immunization forms, etc. Teachers were available to distribute, assist and interact with parents and students with any questions that arose. Due to Covid-19 we are assessing all options that would best benefit our students.

2: Building Staff Capacity through Training and Technical Assistance

(Describe/List how the district will provide support and technical assistance to all its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices, inclusive of school parent and family engagement policies/plans, school-parent compacts, and all Title I parent and family engagement requirements. Describe/List activities such as workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, and online resources that will be used with school staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners. Include information about how the district and/or schools will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.)

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

Dierks School District will use a variety of communication tools on a regular basis and provide clear information regarding curriculum expectations, school activities, and student services. Staff members will be encouraged to demonstrate respect for families and the family's primary role in the rearing of children in order for them to become responsible adults. Each spring Dierks School District will conduct an annual meeting to update policies for the next year's Title I, Part A program. This meeting will take place in the Dierks High school library. Gene Strode will be conducting this meeting during parent/teacher conferences. He can be reached at 870-286-2191 or gene.strode@dierksschools.org. Lori Finley will conduct an annual meeting during JoAnn Walters Elementary open house. She can be reached at 870-286-3234 or lori.finley@dierksschools.org. Dierks School District will

communicate with parents in an ongoing process, using a variety of methods which reflect a respect for parental input. The district will translate communications to assist non-English speaking parents. The Family Resource Center located in the counselor's office can be a valuable tool for parents. This shall be used to provide an accessible parent/family information and resource center to support parents and families with training, resources, and other services to help parents become full partners in the education of their child. Superintendent Jody Cowart meets monthly with building principals in order to provide coordination, technical assistance and to discuss the different needs of the buildings. The Superintendents Counsel also holds a monthly meeting after the school board meeting. The counsel reviews board meeting motions, discussions, as well as happenings between buildings and issues of concern. The Superintendents Counsel is composed of elected teachers/staff from each building. These meetings allow teachers, staff, and administrators to discuss parent and family engagement plans, upcoming involvement activities and parent compacts. Building principals are required to ensure professional development requirements are met for teachers and administrators. Upon completion of professional development, teachers are required to submit proof of training to their building principal. It is required that teachers and administrators complete 60 hours of professional development, while most complete more than the required amount. Training is provided annually for volunteers.

3: Building Parent Capacity

(Describe/List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to support parents in helping their student's academic success. If applicable, describe how each discretionary item your district and parents chose will be implemented.)

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

Dierks School District will use a variety of communication tools on a regular basis and provide clear information regarding curriculum expectations, school activities, and student services. Dierks School District will provide information to participating parents on educational goals on national, state, and local levels, as well as parent's rights as defined in Title I, Part A. Jody Cowart, 870-286-2191 or jody.cowart@dierksschools.org. Dierks School District will communicate with parents in an ongoing process, using a variety of methods which reflect a respect for parental input. Dierks School District will assist in the development of parent engagement groups at each school. We will encourage the formation of partnerships between schools and local businesses that includes roles for parents by collaborating with the community and use the community resources to strengthen schools, families, and student learning. Dierks Schools will distribute information regarding cultural, recreations, academics, health, social, and other resources that serve families within the community. Dierks School District provides parenting books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting through school counselor's office and/or the school library. Parents will be given the opportunity to borrow the materials for review. This information will be housed in the schools Family Resource Center located in the counselor's office. This area shall be used to provide an accessible parent/family information and resource center to support parents and families with training, resources, and other services to help parents become full partners in the education of their child. We will involve parents through an annual survey to improve school effectiveness. Karla Bray will provide the survey at Joann Walter Elementary. She can be reached at 870-286-2015, or karla.bray@dierksschools.org. Crystal Smith will provide the survey at Dierks High School. She can be reached at 870-286-2191, or crystal.smith@dierksschools.org. Dierks School District will provide any reasonable support for parents and family engagement at the request of participating Title I, Part A schools. Jody Cowart may be reached at 870-286-2191 or jody.cowart@dierksschools.org. Dierks School District will analyze the findings from the evaluation to analyze evidence-based strategies that will encourage better parental involvement.

4: Reservation and Evaluation

(Describe/List how the district will share with parents and family members the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and how parents and family members will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used. If the district does not receive a Title I, Part A allocation greater than \$500,000, then the district is not required to include a description of its Reservation of Funds. If a reservation is required,

then a minimum of 90% of that 1% must go to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools. Describe/List actions for how the annual evaluation will be conducted, identifying who will be responsible for conducting it, and explaining what role parents and family members will play.)

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

Dierks School District will survey parents annually. The survey will include questions to identify barriers to parent and family engagement. Karla Bray will conduct the annual survey at Joann Walters Elementary. She can be reached at 870-286-2015 or karla.bray@dierksschools.org. Crystal Smith will conduct the annual survey at Dierks High School. She can be reached at 870-286-2191, or crystal.smith@dierksschools.org. Dierks School District will provide an opportunity for the parents to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures, including analysis of data collect. Karla Bray, Joann Walters Elementary. She can be reached at 870-286-2015 or karla.bray@dierksschools.org. Crystal Smith, Dierks High School. She can be reached at 870-286-2191, or crystal.smith@dierksschools.org Dierks School District will use its finding from our evaluation process to make recommendations to each participating school for parent and family engagement policy revisions. Dierks School District will provide suggestions for designing school improvement policies, as they relate to parent and family engagement. The District Parent Involvement Committee will by responsible for this. Those committee members are: Karla Bray, Crystal Smith, Gene Strode, Lori Finley and Adriana Hogg. Dierks School District will disseminate an annual parent activity evaluation report to share with parents, staff and the community. Jody Cowart will disseminate the evaluation report. He can be reached at 870-286-2191, or jody.cowart@dierksschools.org

5: Coordination

(Describe/List how the district will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families such as public preschool programs or organizations to help students transition to elementary, middle, high, and postsecondary schools or careers.)

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

Dierks School District engages in activities that encourage parental participation in the decision making process regarding issues directly affecting their child. Karla Bray is the family engagement contact person at JoAnn Walters Elementary. She can be reached at 870-286-2015. Crystal Smith is the family engagement contact person at Dierks High School. She can be reached at 870-286-2191, or crystal.smith@dierksschools.org. Jody Cowart will conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy. He can be reached at 870-286-2191 or jody.cowart@dierksschools.org.

Dierks School District will coordinate and integrate programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs. One of those programs include the local Health Department. The district works closely with the department to organize flu shots for students and staff each year. The district also works with local law enforcement agencies to bring drug awareness to students and parents. Dierks high school also coordinates with area colleges who are able inform students and parents on career and college opportunities. Another organization the district works with is the Dierks Chamber of Commerce. We are able to work with them to provide meals for students and families in need through the community food pantry. In addition, students are able to volunteer their time to assist with this community outreach.

(See complete [Arkansas Guide for District Parent and Family Engagement Plan](#) for references)

ADE Reviewer Responses by Section

Section 1 - Jointly Developed Expectations and Outcomes

- Federal Compliance
 - State Compliance
-

Comments:

10/5/2020 FScott

Meets required components

Section 2 - Building Staff Capacity through Training and Technical Assistance

- Federal Compliance
 - State Compliance
-

Comments:

10/5/2020 FScott

Meets required components

Section 3 - Building Parent Capacity

- Federal Compliance
 - State Compliance
-

Comments:

10/5/2020 FScott

Meets required components

Section 4 - Reservation and Evaluation

- Federal Compliance
 - State Compliance
-

Comments:

10/5/2020 FScott

Meets required component.

Section 5 - Coordination

- Federal Compliance
 - State Compliance
-

Comments:

12/10/2020 - SGreen

Revisions have been made, and this section now meets all required components.

10/5/2020 FScott

Does not meet required component to describe/List how the district will coordinate with other organizations.