

DeWitt School District Parental and Family Engagement Plan

The administration and staff at DeWitt Schools believe that involving families in their child's education is vital for the child to reach his or her potential. Therefore, the district desires to create a partnership with families to improve the social, emotional, and academic growth of students. The parent and family engagement plan will promote the involvement of the district school community and provide access to educational resources. The parent and family engagement plan is in compliance with the legal requirements of Arkansas Act 603 of 2003 (6-15-1602: Parent and Family Engagement Plan) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Program Components: The following goals make up DeWitt School District's Family Engagement Plan:

Goal One: The LEA will foster effective parent and family engagement strategies and support partnerships among the school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement through the following:

The district will:

- Coordinate parent and family engagement activities with those of other programs such as the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and other state-run preschool programs. (Paula Snyder, DES)
- Establish parent and family engagement contact person at each Title I, Part A schools. (Paula Snyder, DES).
- Conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy. (Julie Adams, Central Office)
- Develop district parent and family engagement committee to create a parent and family engagement policy and to implement parent and family engagement activities as well as disseminate information to the community to promote parent and family engagement in the Title I, Part A schools. (Julie Adams, Central Office).
- Ensure that parents of children with disabilities or limited English proficiency have equal access as other parents including information in a language and form they can understand.
- Involve parents in the process of school review and improvement.
- Develop and disseminate district parent and family engagement policy.
- Conduct an annual meeting in the spring to update the policy for the next year's Title I, Part A program. (Julie Adams, Central Office)
- If necessary, reserve a minimum of 1% of the Title I, Part A allocation for parent and family engagement, with 90% going to Title I, Part A schools, with priority given to "high-

need" schools. Required for districts receiving \$500,000 or more Title I funding. (Julie Adams, Central Office)

Goal Two: The LEA will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent engagement through the following: The school district will...

- Conduct ongoing site visits to observe parent and family engagement practices. (Julie Adams, Central Office)
- Provide materials and training not otherwise available to assist parents in supporting their child's academic achievement.
- Enhance awareness and skills of teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and staff reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents as equal partners. (Paula Snyder, DES, Courtney Barnett, DMS, Paige Relyea, DHS)
- Ensure, to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and form parents can understand. (DES)
- Provide information on adult literacy training available in the community.
- Provide a copy of the school policy at each school for parents to view as well as provide a copy to each parent.
- Monitor each Title I, Part A school to ensure that each school performs the following tasks:
 - Develop parental and family engagement policy.
 - Offer flexible meeting times.
 - Develop and use School-Parent Compact
 - Provide training for parents working with their child to improve academic achievement, (Julie Adams, Central Office)
- Reinforce parenting skills to support the acquisition of academic skills and their application in real-life situations for parent use.
- Encourage parents to visit/volunteer at school by assisting staff in developing volunteer opportunities as well as training staff to encourage and to build volunteer efforts.
- Encourage parent participation through innovative scheduling of activities through strategies like holding meetings at a variety of times, such as morning and evening, in order to maximize the opportunities for parents to participate in school-related activities.
- Convene annual school meeting to inform parents of their school's participation in the development of the parent and family engagement policy and their right to be involved.

Goal Three: The LEA will build the school's capacity for strong parental engagement. The school district will...

- Provide information to participating parents in such areas as national, state, and local educational goals, including parents' rights as defined in Title I, Part A. (Paula Snyder, DES, Courtney Barnett, DMS, Paige Relyea, DHS).
- Assist in the development of parent engagement groups at each school. (Paula Snyder, DES, Courtney Barnett, DMS, Paige Relyea, DHS).
- Encourage the formation of partnerships between schools and local businesses that includes roles for parents.
- Provide resources for parents to learn about child development, child rearing practices, and academic strategies that are designed to help parents to become full partners in the education of their child.
- Involve parents through an annual survey to improve school effectiveness. (Paula Snyder, DES, Courtney Barnett, DMS, Paige Relyea, DHS).
- Approve reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities.
- Provide any reasonable support for parent and family engagement at the request of participating Title I, Part A schools. (Julie Adams, Central Office)

Goal Four: The LEA will conduct, with the involvement of parents, ongoing evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement plan as it relates to strategies for increasing parental participation by identifying barriers to greater participation. The school district will...

- Survey parents annually, including questions to identify barriers to parent and family engagement. (Paula Snyder, DES, Courtney Barnett, DMS, Paige Relyea, DHS).
- Provide an opportunity for the parents to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures, including analysis of data collected. (Paula Snyder, DES, Courtney Barnett, DMS, Paige Relyea, DHS).
- Develop procedures for collecting parent participation documentation through sign-in sheets for workshops, meetings, and conferences; schedules; brochures; meeting notes; and other means as appropriate throughout the school year.
- Use findings from the evaluation process to make recommendations to each participating school for parent and family engagement policy revision as well as provide suggestions for designing school improvement policies. (Julie Adams, Central Office)
- Develop and disseminate an annual parent activity evaluation report to share with parents, staff, and the community. (Paula Snyder, DES, Courtney Barnett, DMS, Paige Relyea, DHS)

Goal Five: The LEA will involve parents in the joint development of the district Title I Application under section 1112 (ACSIP). The school district will...

- Recruit parents to serve on district school improvement committee to develop the Title I application (Julie Adams, Central Office).
- Recruit parents for the district Parent Advisory Committee.
- Encourage the formation of partnerships between the district and local businesses that includes roles for parents.
- Involve parents through an annual survey to improve district effectiveness.

Committee Members:

Nick	Hill	Superintendent
Julie	Adams	Federal Programs
Paula	Snyder	DES Chair
Courtny	Barnett	DMS Chair
Paige	Relyea	DHS Chair
Elaine	Hornbeck	Parent