

Blytheville Public Schools Family and Community Engagement Plan Summary 2022-2023



What is Parent and Family Engagement?

Parent and family engagement is the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication regarding the student's academic learning and other school activities. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) describes the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools to involve parents and family members in the child's education. Title I, Part A provides for practical parent and family engagement at every level of the program. Parent and family participation is not a new concept; however, the type of participation has certainly changed. Older federal and state laws emphasized parent involvement. Involvement focused on parents and family members attending events and receiving information. While involvement is still important, these laws shifted to emphasize engagement. Engagement promotes opportunities for parents and family members to identify needs, to set goals, and to make plans alongside school personnel. Activities related to showing and telling parents and families is involvement. When school personnel are asking and responding to parents and families, that is a shift toward engagement. Parent and family engagement should provide opportunities for each to play an integral, active role as full partners in the child's education. Whenever appropriate, schools should include parents and families in decision-making, include them as members of advisory committees, and include them in the development and implementation of the district and school plan. The five sections of Blytheville's District Parent and Family Engagement Plan are provided within this document. Additional details including meeting resources, a calendar of events, etc. are available in the State-Required Information section of the district website located at www.blythevilleschools.com.

For More Information:

Contact: Chanda Walker

Phone: 870-762-2053

Email: cwalker@blythevilleschools.net

Blytheville Public Schools Family and Community Engagement Plan Summary 2022-2023



1. Jointly-Developed Expectations and Objective

The district committee meets three times annually to collect and to review data from the needs assessment and to compose/revise the district plan. Plans are submitted annually to the Arkansas Department of Education: Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (ADE: DESE). This plan is available on the district's website. The plan is also available in print upon request. Comments from parents who deem the schoolwide plan unsatisfactory will be provided to the superintendent for submission to the appropriate ADE: DESE personnel.

2. Building Staff Capacity through Training and Technical Assistance

Personnel receive updates addressing: (1) the value and utility of contributions of parents; (2) how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; (3) how to implement and coordinate parent programs; and (4) how to build ties between parents and the school. District personnel provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support to schools in jointly-developing school parent and family engagement plans, implementing effective parent and family involvement activities, and jointly-developing school parent compacts.

3. Building Parent Capacity

Based on the needs assessment and feedback from stakeholders, personnel help parents by addressing: (1) the challenging State academic standards; (2) the State and local academic assessments; (3) the requirements of Title I, Part A; and (4) how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. Announcements, communications, and invitations to events are shared via social media, communication folders, etc. Presentation materials, handouts, and other resources are posted on the district's website when possible. The needs assessment and feedback provided from data determine the timing of events, topics for training, guest speakers, the purchase of supplementary resources, etc.

4. Reservation and Evaluation

The district reserves at least a minimum of 1% of the Title I, Part A allocation for parent and family engagement with 90% of that 1% going to Title I, Part A schools, with priority given to high-need schools. Parents and families are informed about plans, budgets, decision-making, etc. using face-to-face and digital approaches including: (1) Title I Building-Level Meeting; (2) Superintendent's Annual Report to the Public; (3) monthly financial updates to the Board of Education; (4) Title I District-Level Meeting (5) posted materials and resources in the State-Required Information section of the district website.

5. Coordination

Personnel coordinate and integrate programs and activities with other federal, state, and local programs. They encourage partnerships between schools and local businesses to support greater parent, family, and community engagement. District personnel provide informational updates, digital communications, etc. Building personnel encourage and support parents. Each campus has a Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Committee coordinated by the building facilitator. Building personnel use the needs assessment and feedback to determine and to prioritize the options for the campus. The parent resource center offers digital and physical resources depending on the needs of the campus. Each building facilitator works with stakeholders to review and to provide potential resources.