



Bergman School District

P.O. Box 1
Bergman AR 72615
870-741-5213

District Engagement Plan

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

Describe how the LEA works with parents and families to develop and review relevant plans, policies, and strategies related to engagement, including establishing expectations and objectives.

We will involve our parents through flexible meeting times in the process of jointly working with school personnel in the creation/revision of our policy and providing input in the process of school review and improvement including recruiting parents to serve on district School Improvement committees that develop the Title I application.

To ensure adequate representation of parents and families of all children, we will use our district's demographics. From this we will accurately seek parents/families to be apart of committees, events, and gather their feedback to better support them. Getting better information and participation from all parents/families will increase the likelihood of success for their children because of the school-parent partnership. We make sure information goes home in a way that all parents can read and understand and communicate with all parents, especially ESL families is in a way that their families feel welcome to attend events and participate in committees and other activities in the engagement process.

We are continuing to provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist our Title I funded schools in planning and implementing effective parent and community engagement activities designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

We are helping the schools to build their capacity and the parents' capacity to form strong partnerships with each other.

Our building level facilitators, along with other staff, and administration will ensure, coordinate and integrate parental and community engagement strategies included in other programs, such as: HIPPPY and coop operated preschool programs.

We will, on an annual basis, conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the LEA's parental and community engagement policy. This evaluation will be in conjunction with our parents and community. We seek to confirm whether our policy is helping improve the academic quality of our schools, including identifying any barriers to greater participation by parents. We are determined to use the results of this evaluation to help us design better strategies for parental and community engagement and revise our policies, as needed. Title I Coordinator, Debbie Atkinson, will oversee the meeting and make sure that recommendations are considered in next year's Title I, Part A program. Parents and/or community partners that deem the LEA Plan unsatisfactory will have their comments submitted to the state.

We are not required to allocate Title I, Part A funds for parental and community engagement, but we do at each campus. The funds will be used to purchase materials for conducting parental and community engagement in Education Night and materials for the parent centers on the campuses.

As part of the School Improvement Plan, the federal coordinator will ensure that each school has appropriate representation on their committee for their parental and community engagement committee and is meeting the requirements for Title I, Part A schools. Title I, Part A provides financial assistance for additional instructional services and activities to meet the educational needs and support of students at risk.

One expectation for this school year is to involve parents and community members in a variety of activities that are fun and educationally helpful to them to better understand what we are doing here at school and how they can assist at home. The climate at our school is one that is very welcoming and safe so it is always our goal to continue that. Another goal is that with intentional planning, the feeling returns which is evident from positive feedback from success events, like family nights, and surveys. We are going to ensure parents/families can appreciate and share in what is happening by doing a better job of telling our story. We will use social media, newsletters, and local paper to showcase the great things going on in our school. By August 1 the District and each of its schools shall review and update their District Parent/Guardian and community engagement Plans and will file copies of those Plans with the Department of Education as well as post updated plans on the school website.

2: Building Staff Capacity

Describe how the district will support all its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective engagement practices.

As the coordinator, I will work on strengthening the relationships I have with the building level facilitators to provide reasonable support. With a healthy relationship, it is likely the engagement system between the district and schools will flow together towards success.

I will share information with the facilitators through email and verbal communication and I will ensure that they have the support to develop plans, parent/families activities, and school-parent compacts by meeting with their school teams or them individually either in person or by a virtual platform.

The School District will design professional development opportunities for teachers to include no less than two hours of professional development. The two hours may be included in the thirty-six hours of required professional development. The School District will design a minimum of three hours of professional development opportunities for administrators -- in addition to the minimum number of hours of professional development required. All of these professional development opportunities are designed to enhance the understanding of:

- effective parent and community engagement strategies
- the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parent/guardian participation.
- the value and utility of contributions of parents
- how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
- how to implement and coordinate parent programs
- how to build ties between parents and the school

To ensure that these professional development activities are completed, the district will keep a professional development log for every staff member through the ESCWorks program. Documented completion of required professional development hours will be submitted to the person responsible for cycle reporting at the end of the year.

The District will provide training at least annually for volunteers who assist in our instructional program. The District will 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
- jointly-developing school-parent compacts

A summary of the Parent and Family Engagement plan will be placed in the handbooks, linked on the school webpage, provided in another language when necessary, and a copy placed in each school and district office. Parents will return signature pages noting receipt of handbook as well as the parent and family engagement plan.

3: Building Parent Capacity

Describe how the LEA supports parents in helping with their student's academic success.

We will schedule regular parent and community engagement meetings at which parents are given a report on the state of the school and an overview of

- what the students will be learning;
- how the students will be assessed;
- the requirements of Title I, Part A
- what parents should expect for their child's education
- how a parent can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education.
- We will provide instruction to a parent on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitations:
 - role play and demonstration by trained volunteers;
 - the use of and access to Department of Education website tools for parents;
 - assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation; and
 - other strategies or curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education.

We will engage in other activities determined by the school to help a parent assist in his or her child's learning. Some activities include:

- Family literacy nights
- Community Guest Speakers
- One campus - One Book reading initiatives
- Weekly newsletters and/or Web Updates
- Published Classroom Lesson Plans/Activities
- Video Lessons
- Continued Teacher/Parent/Guardian Contact throughout the year

4: Coordination

Describe how the LEA will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports, services, and resources to families that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

To take advantage of community resources the District will:

- Consider recruiting alumni from the school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance for school improvement
- Enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association that will foster parental and community engagement within the school. Leaders of this organization shall be utilized in appropriate decisions affecting the children and families
- Engage in other activities that the school determines will use community resources to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning
- The Coordinator will ensure that parents rights are identified within the District Policies published online at and that parents are regularly informed regarding national, state, local educational goals. The District will recruit parents to serve on the district school improvement committee.

5: Evaluation and Reservation

Describe how the LEA evaluates the content and effectiveness of its Engagement Program in improving the academic quality of all schools. Describe how the LEA reserves and uses Title I funds for parent and family engagement programs and activities.

The School District will support the development, implementation and regular evaluation of the Parent/Guardian and Community Engagement Program -- to involve parents/guardians in the decisions and practices of the District while using to the degree possible -- the components listed below:

The principal of each school will designate one certified staff member to be compensated by school funds -- as a parent/guardian facilitator for the purpose of:

- Organizing meaningful training for staff and parents/guardians for the purpose of promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parents/guardians involved in the school, undertaking efforts to ensure that parents/guardians participation is recognized as an asset to the school.
- Assuring that a parental and community engagement plan is prepared and shared on the web site and disseminated to all stakeholders.
- Conduct an annual parent activity evaluation report to share with parents, staff, and the community which could be included as a part of the annual report to the public.

The district coordinator will ensure that Title I money will be allocated to parent and family engagement activities in each building. Of these budgeted funds, the parent and family engagement facilitators at each building will ensure that parents and families are involved in those decisions regarding how funds are allotted and that the activities and strategies are consistent with our district policies. Each facilities will also conduct an annual evaluation identifying barriers, needs, and strategies to help design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement.

The district will review and approve each school plan and review and update the district plan by August 1 of each year. Parent Facilitators for each building include: HS-Lisa Davis, MS-Brittany Keys, Elem-Karen Curtis

LEA Information

District/LEA Name:	Bergman
District Engagement Coordinator's Name:	Debbie Atkinson
Plan Revision/Submission Date:	June 28, 2023
District Level Reviewer Name, Title:	Debbie Atkinson, Federal Coordinator

Committee Members, Role

First Name	Last Name	Role (Teacher, Staff, Parent, Student, or Community Member)
Debbie	Atkinson	Elementary Principal
Jason	Keys	Middle School Principal
Amy	Curtis	High School Principal
Karen	Curtis	Elem. Parent Eng. Facilitator
Brittany	Keys	MS Parent Eng. Facilitator
Lisa	Davis	HS parent Eng. Facilitator

Committee Members, Role

First Name	Last Name	Role (Teacher, Staff, Parent, Student, or Community Member)
Mitzi	Cantrell	District
Kristen	Reese	Parent Elementary and Middle School
Mandy	Collins	Parent Elementary and Middle School
Mandy	Lowry	Parent Middle School and High School
Kerry	Ponder	Parent High School

References

State

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1701 et seq.

Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement

Federal

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act, 114 P.L. 95, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6312, 6318, 6320

Find additional guidance on the DESE Parent and Family Engagement Requirements webpage. For any questions about completing this form or meeting legal compliance, please contact the DESE Engagement Unit at ade.engagementmatters@ade.arkansas.gov or 501-371-8051.