

# Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Parent Involvement Plan 2018-2019

The Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI) recognizes the importance of parent and family involvement in the educational success of students, and is committed to increasing parental involvement in all academic, functional and social areas of their child's education. The administration and faculty at ASBVI believes that we should foster and support active parental involvement, and acknowledges that parents are an integral part of the educational success of their children. The following programs and practices have been created and established as the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Parent Involvement Plan:

All parents, alumni, and community stakeholders, will be surveyed at the beginning and end of each school year in effort to gather information about parent/family/community volunteer interest areas and to obtain feedback on academics, school climate/culture, and the effectiveness of. These surveys will be reviewed by the ACSIP committees, and used to for planning and implementation of initiatives and goals for planning overall school improvement and maintaining a Parent Involvement Plan that reflects the concerns and needs of our parents. Upon the completion of each school year, all parents will receive a specific survey related to Special Education and Due Process. (Surveys are attached following this plan.)

- a) K-12 Online Survey (Available at [www.arkansaschoolfortheblind.org](http://www.arkansaschoolfortheblind.org))
- b) K-12 Volunteer Interest Inquiry (available online)
- c) Early Childhood and Secondary Special Education Parent/Guardian Survey (Provided during Due Process Conferences).

Orientation to the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be provided parents during Registration Day at the beginning of each school year, or as requested. Parent Conferences will be held a minimum of twice a year to allow parents the opportunity to become involved in their child's grade specific academic and extracurricular activities.

## **The following activities are scheduled for the 2018-2019 school year:**

- (a) Registration, new Parent/Student Orientation, Parent Teacher Conferences – August 12, 2018 (12:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
- (b) Braille Boot Camps – TBA
- (c) East Meets West (9:00 am – 2:00) TBA
- (d) Report to the Public – October 12, 2018
- (e) 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cane Quest - TBA
- (f) ASBVI Homecoming/Parade/Wrestling Tournament – November 9, 10 & 11, 2018
- (g) Thanksgiving Luncheon for Parents, November 15, 2018
- (h) Cookies with Santa – December 15, 2018
- (i) Spelling Bee – TBA, 2019
- (j) Semester Tests – December 12 & 13, 2018
- (i) Parent Teacher Conference/Parent Dinner/Christmas Concert – December 20, 2018

- (Dinner 5:00, Concert 6:30 p.m.)
- (j) Youth Wrestling Candy Bar Meet – January 10, 2019
  - (k) Braille Boot Camps – Jan. TBA, Feb. TBA, March TBA
  - (l) Wrestling Conference (to be announced)
  - (m) Black History Assembly – TBA
  - (n) Braille Challenge – February 7, 2019
  - (o) Student Talent Show – March 14, 2019
  - (p) Annual Review/Parent/Teacher Conferences – April 15-May 26, 2019
  - (q) Senior Prom – April 25, 2019
  - (r) Parent Appreciation Dinner and Spring Concert – May 9, 2019 (Dinner 5:00, Concert 6:30 p.m.)
  - (s) Athletic Banquet – May 16, 2019 (6:00 p.m.)
  - (t) High School Graduation – May 17, 2019 (10:00 a.m.)
  - (u) Pee Wee Athletic Luncheon – May 22, 2019 (11:30 p.m.)
  - (v) Kindergarten Graduation/ West Wing Celebration May 22, 2019
  - (w) Academic Awards - May 23, 2019
  - (x) Student last day – May 24, 2019

Ongoing PTA meetings will be held (at a minimum) each month as announced by the PTA parent liaison or PTA president. Parents may now attend PTA meetings through the virtual platform “ZOOM” (directions are found on our website [www.arkansasschoolfortheblind.org](http://www.arkansasschoolfortheblind.org)).

ASBVI will sponsor parent support meetings in concert with the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Parents of Students with Visual Impairments each school year to provide information concerning how parents can become directly involved in their child’s education; to exchange parent-to-parent information; to gain up-to-date information concerning parent rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Due Process; and other parent involvement/development issues related to educational and family needs such as:

- (a) Christmas Cookies with Santa – December 15, 2018
- (d) Parents of VI Students Forum-In conjunction with 2018-2019 Arkansas Braille Challenge

A minimum of two Parent-Teacher conferences will be held annually to provide parents with information concerning their child’s academic success and increase direct parent involvement with the teacher in the academic and extracurricular program of each student. Parents may call for a conference at any time throughout the school year. The days listed are available as are accommodations for parents who have to travel to attend conferences.

- (a) Registration Day Orientation and Parent Teacher Conference – August 12, 2018
- (b) Parent Conference Day – December 20, 2018
- (c) Parent Conference Day – February 7, 2019
- (d) Individual Due Process Conferences throughout the course of each school year will be held as required by law or requested by parents
- (e) Annual Review/Parent Conferences – April 15-May 24, 2019

Each parent will annually receive an updated student handbook stating school requirements,

school rules and regulations, resolutions of student issues and offenses, students' absentee policies and general school information required by the Arkansas Department of Education and Act 307, House Bill 1521.

A Parent Resource Center is established to provide materials to parents that will increase student success, as well as provide information to parents that reflect the specific needs of their child and their family. The Parent Resource Center will also provide direct access to on-line computers for research purposes, books and magazines concerning visual impairment and blindness, educational materials and information, Due Process materials and information, and grade level kits that will provide specific information about grade level academics, specific eye diseases, necessary modifications and accommodations for students, advocacy groups, etc.

- (a) Computer access
- (b) Grade level kits containing relevant information about academics & extracurricular activities, school handbook, etc.
- (c) Academic Books
- (d) Relevant materials concerning visual impairments
- (e) Magazines, journals
- (f) Parent Resource List
- (g) Email addresses of school
- (h) Student Handbooks and school policies
- (i) Parent Overnight Accommodations

A certified staff member will be appointed annually to fulfill the role of parent facilitator. The facilitator will engage in communication with parents and organize meaningful training for parents and staff in the areas of promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parental involvement. The facilitator will also undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset of the school.

Parents who are involved with their child's education will be acknowledged through newspaper articles commending them for their dedication and support. Other forms of parent appreciation will be used such as: commendations, certificates, and community recognition.

Administrators and faculty members will be available to conduct seminars and provide information for parents of blind and visually impaired children in an effort to help them access appropriate academic, extracurricular, social and functional performance information, as well as Due Process/Parental Rights information concerning their child's education.

Additionally, parent involvement and participation information will be provided on the ASBVI web site, in school newsletters, through ASBVI Parent Resource Center, and through general correspondence from the Superintendent, Principals and Teachers.

- (a) ASBVI Web Site
- (b) School Newsletters
- (c) Parent Notices & Letters
- (d) Parent Resource Center
- (e) Welcome-Back School Letter containing school calendar, telephone numbers, email addresses, relevant information, etc.

Staff development opportunities will be provided each year for faculty, staff and parents. Per the department of education and State of Arkansas (Act 969 of 2013), 2 hours of professional development regarding parental involvement is mandated. (\*see requirements below)

**\*Scheduled Professional Development (Act 969 of 2013)**

- **Parent Involvement** - two hours in **2018-2019** and every fourth year thereafter
- **Human Trafficking** – AR Act 765 of 2017\*
- **Teen Suicide Awareness and Prevention** - two hours in **2019-2020** and every fourth year thereafter
- **Arkansas History\*** - two hours in **2020-2021** and every fourth year thereafter for those who provide\*\* instruction in Arkansas History
- **Child Maltreatment Mandated Reporter** - two hours in **2021-2022** and every fourth year thereafter

**ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED  
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**2018-2019**

Members:

James Caton, Superintendent

Teresa Doan, Elementary Principal/LEA

Tyrone Williams, Special Education Supervisor

Jennifer Linder, Parent Facilitator

Beverly Roy, Executive Assistant

Jennifer Linder, Guidance Counselor

Shelli Moore, Director Early Intervention Program

Amanda Noles, Parent

Doah Strojek, Secondary Teacher

Lori Cole, Braille Teacher/Adaptive Technology

Sam Ketcher, DLL/DTC

Margaret Berry, LCSW

Jena McDonnell, Director of Instructional Materials Center

Mary Levy, RN

John McAllister, Board Member

Scott Smith, Business Representative

Roger Fitzgibbon, Business Representative

(All ASB staff members are encouraged to be active members of the Parental Involvement Committee)

Purpose of the Parental Involvement Committee:

To create strategies and develop plans to:

1. build strong relationships between teachers and students' parents;
2. build pathways of parental involvement in students' educational processes;
3. provide on-going educational support to parents of Arkansas students with sensory impairments.