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## **District Parental/Community Involvement**

The Bentonville School District understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general goodwill between the district and those it serves. Therefore, the district shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community involvement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community. To achieve such ends, the district shall work to:

1. foster effective parental involvement strategies and support partnerships among schools, parents, and the community to improve student achievement by:
  - a. involving parents and the community in the development of the district's long range school improvement and parental involvement planning process;
  - b. scheduling regular parent involvement meetings to explain to parents and the community the State's content and achievement standards, State and local student assessments and how the district's curriculum is aligned with the assessments and how parents can work with the district to improve their child's academic achievement;
  - c. maintaining a coordinated involvement program where the involvement activities of the district enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPY, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs, and Even Start;
  - d. communicating to parents all available opportunities to participate in parental involvement programs, meetings, and other activities, including those activities specific to parents of limited English proficient students, students with disabilities, and/or gifted and talented students. Such communication shall be, to the extent practical, in a language the parents can understand; and
  - e. locating and modifying other successful parent and community involvement programs to suit the needs of our district.
2. provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement by:
  - a. designating a highly qualified, certified staff member at each school to serve as a parent involvement facilitator;
  - b. reserving a minimum of 1% of the Title I, Part A annual allocation to support parental involvement activities, with 95% allocated to participating Title I, Part A schools. Parents of children receiving Title I, Part A services shall be involved in the development of the school's parental involvement plan and decisions regarding how the school's Title I, Part A Parental Involvement set aside funds are utilized;
  - c. providing parents with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The district may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parental involvement and provide literacy and technology training to parents;
  - d. implementing strategies that eliminate barriers that keep parents from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and childcare to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative when scheduling parent/teacher conferences; and
  - e. providing reasonable support for other parental involvement activities as parents may reasonably request.

3. build the school's capacity for strong parental involvement by:
  - a. providing schools the support necessary to enable them to plan and implement effective parental involvement activities;
  - b. educating district staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent involvement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents; and
  - c. training parents to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents.
4. ensure the continued improvement of the district's parental/community involvement program by:
  - a. conducting, with the involvement of parents, community members, district administration, and certified and classified staff, an annual evaluation of its' parental involvement policy as it relates to strategies for increasing parental participation, identifying barriers to greater parent participation, and promoting higher student achievement; and
  - b. utilizing the findings from the evaluation process to make recommendations to each school for parental involvement plan revisions and provide suggestions for designing school improvement policies as they relate to parental involvement.

**This policy shall be part of the district and each school's Title I, Part A plan and shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practical, in a language the parents can understand.**

Legal References:      20 U.S.C. § 6318 (a)(2),(A),(B),(D),(E) (NCBL Act of 2001, Section 1118)  
                          20 U.S.C. § 6318 (e)(1),(2),(3),(4),(5),(6),(8),(9),(10),(11),(13),(14) (NCLB Act of 2001, Section 1118)