

Marion High School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Marion High School understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the school and those it serves. Therefore, Marion High School 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 school shall work to

1. Involve parents and the community in the development and improvement of Title I programs for the school;
2. Have a coordinated involvement program where the involvement activities of the school 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;
3. Explain to parents and the community the State's content and achievement standards, State and local student assessments and how the school's curriculum is aligned with the assessments and how parents can work with the school to improve their child's academic achievement;
4. Provide parents with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The school may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parental involvement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
5. Educate school 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;
6. Keep parents informed about parental involvement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
7. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
8. Find and modify other successful parent and community involvement programs to suit the needs of our school;
9. Train parents to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents;
10. Provide reasonable support for other parental involvement activities as parents may reasonably request.

To help promote an understanding of each party's role in improving student learning, Marion High School shall develop a compact that outlines the responsibilities of parents, students, and the school staff in raising student academic achievement and in building the partnerships that will enable students to meet the State's academic standards.

Marion High School shall convene an annual meeting or several meetings at varying times if necessary to adequately reach parents of students, to inform parents of its requirements regarding parental involvement, and the parent's right to be involved in the education of their child.

Marion High School will encourage parental involvement by providing opportunities for parents to interact with school programs and events.

The following actions will be used by Marion High School to implement the parental engagement policy:

Action 1: MHS faculty will participate in parental involvement staff development.

Action 2: The counseling center and career coach center will also provide parents with information about careers, financial aid, and other academic issues so parents can help their students meet academic goals.

Action 3: To receive input concerning areas that may need to be improved; the Parent Involvement Committee will ask each parent to complete a brief survey at the annual CAP conference concerning their parental involvement at MHS.

Action 4: MHS will offer Parenting and Child Development courses in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department to teach positive parenting skills to future parents.

Action 5: Parent facilitator will assist in choosing the parental involvement committee for MHS.

Action 6: MSD will contact the Marion Chamber of Commerce and ask them to compile a list of community resources available to strengthen family and educational goals.

Action 7: MHS will review current school policies and practices to ensure that they invite family participation with the school including the process for resolving parental concerns.

Action 8: Attendance data from parent conferences and a Parental Survey completed at CAP conferences will measure parental involvement.

Action 9: Parents of all MHS students will be invited to Back to School Orientation to communicate the desire for parental support to increase student achievement and help a parent assist in his or her child's learning.

Action 10: Administrators and teachers will receive the appropriate hours in effective parent involvement staff development as required by Arkansas law.

Action 11: MHS will develop a parent resource section on our web page that will provide instruction to a parent on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment.

Action 12: Director of Communications will communicate to the parents the calendar of events and help with any parent organized group.

Action 13: CAP seminars and Financial Aid Night will inform parents of high school students about involvement and decision making.

Action 14: Two required Parent/Teacher conferences will be held: one in Fall and one in Spring.

Action 15: Parent center located in Counselors' Office will provide informational packets for parents to help prepare their student. Volunteer Resource Book is available from the Parent Facilitator at MHS.

Action 16: MHS parents have the opportunity to develop a PTA/PTO group.

Action 17: MHS will notify parents of the School Improvement Status by written notice and in the annual report to the public.

Action 18: An online grade reporting system, eSchool Home Access Center, will be used. This system is designed to provide parents with up to date, accurate information about their child's academic performance, assignments and other information.

This policy shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Parental Information and Resource Centers

The Center for Effective Parenting serves as the Arkansas State Parent Information & Resource Center (PIRC). Information for the Arkansas State PIRC can be found at <http://www.parenting-ed.org>.

Revised: October 13, 2017