

The Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2019-2020

The Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI) recognizes the importance of parent, family and community 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 parents, family and community involvement, and acknowledges that parents, family members and the community play an integral role in the educational success of 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 an effort to gather information about parent/family/community volunteer interest areas and to obtain feedback on academics, school climate/culture, and the effectiveness of. We value your input. These surveys will be reviewed by the Parent and Family Engagement committee, and used for planning and implementation of initiatives and goals for planning overall school improvement and maintaining a Parent and Family Engagement Plan that reflects the concerns and needs of our parents and families. 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)
- 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 at a minimum of twice a year to allow parents the opportunity to become involved in their child's grade specific academic and extracurricular activities. Parents are also encouraged to email their student's teachers with any input they have. All email addresses are as follows:
firstname.lastname@asb.k12.ar.us

The following activities are scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year:

- (a) West Wing Parent Round Up – August 10, 2019 (9:00-11:00)
- (b) Registration, new Parent/Student Orientation, Parent Teacher Conferences- August 11, 2019 (12:00-4:00 p.m.)
- (c) Academic Achievement Celebration – September 6, 2019
- (d) Friends of ASB Bollywood Concert – September 28, 2019 (1:30-5:30)

- (e) Report to the Public – October 4, 2019
- (f) Annual Cane Quest – November 7, 2019
- (g) Annual Parade and Chili Cook off – November 8, 2019
- (h) Thanksgiving luncheon for Parents and Annual Turkey Walk – November 21, 2019
- (i) Cookies with Santa – December 14, 2019
- (j) Spelling Bee – December 10, 2019
- (k) Class Parties/ Parent Dinner and Concert/ Parent Teacher Conferences – December 19, 2019
- (l) Semester Tests – TBA, 2019
- (m) NCASB Wrestling Tournament at ASD Gym & Homecoming – January 24-25, 2020
- (n) Braille Challenge – February 20, 2020
- (o) Black History Assembly – February 25, 2020
- (p) Parents Invited to Breakfast Day – March 3, 2020
- (q) Student Talent Show – March 19, 2020
- (r) Annual Review/Parent/Teacher Conferences – April 15 - May 22, 2020
- (s) Senior Prom – April 16, 2020
- (t) Parent Appreciation Dinner and Spring Concert – May 7, 2020
- (u) Athletic Banquet – May 14, 2020
- (v) Senior Graduation – May 15, 2020
- (w) West Wing Celebration/Kindergarten Graduation – May 20, 2020
- (x) Academic Award Ceremony – May 21, 2020

*Braille Boot Camps will be available upon request

This year we have changed our PTO to Friends of ASB so that we may openly involve more of our community resources into our student's overall success. We now have a Parent, Family and Community Engagement Room that is located in the Jim Hill Cottage. Ongoing Friends of ASB business meetings will be able to take place here (at a minimum) each quarter as announced by the Friends of ASB parent liaison or the Friends of ASB president and posted on our website. All business meetings will be able to be attended through the virtual platform "ZOOM" (directions are found on our website www.arkansasschoolfortheblind.org) Parents may also contact any school administrator to see if help with transportation, lodging, childcare or meals can be made available to them so that they can attend. There will be other service opportunities/meetings throughout the year that the Friends of ASB will host. These will also be announced by the Friends of ASB parent liaison or the Friends of ASB president and will be posted on our website.

Friends of ASB is dedicated to obtaining and maintaining relationships with our community stakeholders so that we can ensure the needs of the whole student are being met. We are doing this through Open House opportunities, attending community functions, ongoing communication with community members and social media.

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 14, 2019
- (b) Parents of VI Students Forum – In conjunction with the 2019-2020 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 below are available as are accommodations for parents who have to travel to attend conferences. Parents will also be given information regarding the curriculum their students will be using and will be mailed their student's annual assessment results with an explanation of what those results mean. Parents are encouraged to reach out to their student's teachers with any questions regarding what the results mean for their specific student.

- (a) Registration Day Orientation and Parent Teacher Conference – August 11, 2019
- (b) Parent Conference Day – October 15, 2019
- (c) Parent Conference Day – December 19, 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 22, 2020

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. Parents are encouraged to utilize the Parent Resource Center and have ongoing communication with their student's teachers so that they can fully be involved in their student's core academic and expanded core academic growth. Classroom visits can be set up by contacting your student's teacher.

- (a) Computer access
- (b) Grade level kits containing relevant information about academics & extracurricular activities, expanded core curriculum academics, school handbook, school policies etc.
- (c) Academic books
- (d) Relevant materials concerning visual impairments
- (e) Magazines & journals
- (f) Parent Resource list
- (g) Email addresses of school
- (h) Parent overnight accommodations
- (i) School handbooks & policies

A certified staff member will be appointed to fulfill the role as parent facilitator. The facilitator will 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.

- (a) Certified staff member
- (b) Administrators

Administrators and faculty members will hold trainings throughout the state to provide the parents and care givers of visually impaired birth - three children as well as the parents and guardians of the visually impaired and blind public school students' access to appropriate academic, extracurricular, social and functional performance information, as well as Due Process/Parental Rights information concerning their child's education.

- (a) Information provided to Birth - Three parents as well as public school parents concerning appropriate education practices.

Parent, Family and Community engagement information will be provided on the ASBVI web site, in school newsletters, through the 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 through the ASBVI Parent Facilitator, teachers and school administration to enhance the understanding and importance of parent participation within the school. Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year and every fourth year thereafter, all teachers and administrators will be required to have (2) hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies. Teachers will also receive ongoing professional development in the areas of their teaching content, child maltreatment

reporting, teen suicide awareness & prevention and R.I.S.E (reading initiative for student excellence)

- (a) Annual staff development
- (b) Workshops on and off campus
- (c) Arkansas Ideas
- (d) Guest speakers

A Title 1 Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Report to the Public, given yearly, to address the requirements and the school's participation and to inform parents of their rights under Title 1. The annual report will be given this year on October 4, 2019.

**ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
PARENT, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
2019-2020**

Members:

James Caton, Superintendent
Teresa Doan, Principal/LEA
Tyrone Williams, Assistant Principal
Amanda Noles, Special Education Supervisor
Rebekah Lewis, Parent Facilitator
Jennifer Linder, Guidance Counselor
Shelli Moore, Director Early Intervention Program
Millie Nordman, Parent
Joe Reynolds, Elementary Teacher
Doah Strojek, Secondary Teacher
Clayton Nordman, Elementary Student
Cayden Noles, Secondary Student
Mindy Fitzgibbon, Speech Therapist
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
Beverly Roy, Community Engagement

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

Purpose

To create strategies and develop plans to:

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