

Cossatot River High School Parent Involvement Plan

Arkansas ACT 307 of 2007 & Act 327 of 2009
As required by Elementary and Secondary Educational Act (Section1118)

Act 307 of 2007 and Act 327 of 2009 requires public schools to create a parental involvement plan. This allows parents the unique opportunity to work in partnership with their children's schools to ensure that all students are achieving academically. Parent involvement is now defined in the law as "the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academics and other school activities". A child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the time the child spends in school. In order to achieve the goal of effectively educating all children, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners. The parent involvement program shall involve parents of students at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The program shall be comprehensive and coordinated in nature.

Parent Involvement Goals

- Positive working relationship exists between educators and parents in all ethnic groups.
- Diverse communication exists between school and home.
- Strong parent involvement is evident in 7-12.
- Graduates are well versed in democracy/citizenship.
- The public understands that school board meetings are open to everyone.

**Cossatot River High School
Parent Involvement Plan Committee
2014-2015**

Jill Hunter.....Cossatot River High School.....Building Facilitator

Gina Rosson.....Cossatot River High School Building Facilitator

Kathy Hagler..... Cossatot River High SchoolParent Representative

Cherri Counts.....Cossatot River High School.....Parent Representative

Timothy Walston..... Cossatot River High School Teacher Representative

Parent Involvement Policy

All Cossatot River School District schools participate in Title I school wide programs. The Cossatot River School District understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will 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. Students with involved parents have more success in school. Research shows that students earn higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, and enroll in higher education when parents and teachers work together in a collaborating environment. The Cossatot River School District will involve parents of all children receiving Title I services in the joint development of the parent involvement policy, agree on with and distribute to all parents of Title I school wide students a written parent involvement policy.

It is the mission and expectation of Cossatot River High School to create an environment that welcomes participation with parents at school and at home. Parent Involvement is not something that only happens when parents are in the school building.

The Cossatot River High School Parent Involvement Policy, established in collaboration with parents, includes programs and practices that enhance parental involvement and reflects the specific needs of students and their families.

The Cossatot River High School will conduct an annual evaluation in the spring of its parental involvement policies to examine their affect on improving academic quality. A committee consisting of parents and other community members, certified and classified staff, and members of the administration shall do the annual evaluation. A survey will be used to conduct the evaluation. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation of parents in Title I related activities, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged or disabled, and parents who have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or any racial or ethnic minority background. The Cossatot River School District will use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.

To encourage communication with parents, Cossatot River High School schedules two parent-teacher conferences per semester on each campus in the district and provides an internet system called TAC/HAC that allows the parents and teachers to communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner with the child's teacher and the school principal.

To promote and support responsible parenting, Cossatot River High School will purchase books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting through the school libraries and the Parent Center. These materials will be advertised and parents will have an opportunity to borrow the materials for review.

A Parent Resource Center is located in the main office at Cossatot River High School. The Parent Resource Centers serve all parents of the district. The centers contain information on a wide range of important parenting skills and gives specific examples of how to use those skills with children. Parenting books, magazines, and handouts are available. The selection will be advertised regularly, and parents may borrow the materials for review. Parent input and questions are welcomed as the Parent Center strives to be a service to parents with concerns about their child's education and well-being.

"Parent Involvement Meetings" will be scheduled on campus. Topics that will be covered are:

1. State of the School
2. What students will be learning
3. How students will be assessed
4. How parents can assist and make a difference in their child's education
5. What parents should expect for their child's education

Cossatot River High School will publish a volunteer resource book, listing the interests and availability of volunteers for school staff members' use. The resource book will help match school needs with volunteer interests. To develop the volunteer resource book, the school will:

1. Survey parents regarding their interests, so volunteer work will be Meaningful.
2. Determine how frequently a volunteer would like to participate, including just one time a year.

The Cossatot River High School will provide training annually for volunteers who assist in an instructional program for students.

To encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect their child and family, Cossatot River High School will publish the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions in the schools handbook.

The Cossatot River High School has a Title I Parent Compact in place. The Parent Compact will be developed jointly with parents of served students. The compact is made up of students, parents, teachers and administrators' roles in education. The compact outlines how each will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the state's high standards.

The Cossatot River High School will provide strong parental involvement by:

1. Providing assistance to parents in understanding content how to monitor a Child's progress; standards, academic assessments;
2. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement;
3. Educate teachers, principals, and other staff in the importance of effective communication, value and utility of contributions of parents;
4. Coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities;
5. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs is sent to parents to the extent practical in a language parents can understand; and
6. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities parents may request.

The Cossatot River High School will make flexible schedules for volunteers, assemblies, and events to enable working parents to participate.

The Cossatot River High School will sponsor seminars to inform the parents of high school students how to be involved in the decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and preparation for post-secondary opportunities.

Cossatot River High School recognizes that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning. To take advantage of community resources, alumni from the school district will be contacted to form an alumni advisory commission. The alumni commission will provide advice and guidance for school improvement.

The Cossatot River High School will support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of the school, using to the degree possible, and the following components:

1. The principal of Cossatot River High School in the district will designate one certified staff member that is willing to serve as a parent facilitator to organize meaningful training for staff and parents promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parental involvement in the school. The parent facilitator will also undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school.
2. The certified staff serving as a parental facilitator will receive supplement pay for the assigned duties as required by law.

Staff development opportunities as required by the State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools will be offered each year. Two hours of professional development opportunities for teachers will be offered each year. The professional development will be designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies. Three hours of professional development opportunities for administrators will be offered to school administrators. Professional development for administrators will be designed to enhance the understanding of effective parental involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

It is the goal of Cossatot River High School to assure an ongoing partnership between families, communities, and school. We believe such a partnership is fundamental to the academic and social success of students. From this partnership a support will evolve that will have a positive effect on student achievement and will produce a sense of cooperative responsibility in ensuring excellence in the educational process. In accordance to the District plan, Cossatot River High School has developed the following list of activities in which parents and/or volunteers can be involved in the educational process of our students.

- Open House
- Parent/School Compact
- College Night for Parents and Students grades 10, 11, 12
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Christmas Music Program
- Spring Music Program
- Parent/Student Financial Aid Night
- CAP (Career Action Planning) Conferences
- Academic Award Program
- Athletic Banquet
- FFA Banquet
- TAC/HAC
- Contacting parents of students needing tutoring
- Progress Reports
- News Releases (newspaper, radio, marquee)
- Blood Drive included community donors
- Yearly School Calendars
- Senior Prom (parents)
- School Website (English and Spanish)
- Public Meeting
- Homecoming
- Beta and National Honor Society Induction Ceremonies
- Booster Club
- College Signing Day