

Cossatot  
River  
School  
District

2015-

2016

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District Parental Involvement Plan

## **Arkansas ACT 307 of 2007 & 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 between school and home.
- Strong parental involvement in K-12
- Graduates are well versed in democracy/citizenship.
- The public understands that school board meetings are open to everyone.

# Cossatot River School District

## Superintendent

Donnie Davis

## Principals

Dewayne Taylor.....Wickes Elementary School  
Carla Golden.....Umpire School  
Jana Richardson.....Van Cove Elementary School  
LaDonna White .....Cossatot River High School

## Board of Education

Nick Strother .....Member  
Mike Fortner.....Member  
Randy Sellers.....Member  
Rick Frachiseur.....Member  
Rusty Youngblood.....Member  
Debbie White.....Member  
Mitchell Tidwell.....Member

**Cossatot River School District**  
**Parent Involvement Policy**  
**Building and District Committees**  
**2015-2016**

Gina Hunter	Cossatot River	District Coordinator
Angie Richardson	Wickes Elementary School	Building Facilitator
Sonya Henegar	Umpire Elementary School	Building Facilitator
Tammy Crawford	Umpire High School	Building Facilitator
Dee Oliver	Van Cove Elementary	Building Facilitator
Jill Hunter	Cossatot River High School (10-12)	Building Facilitator
Gina Rosson	Cossatot River High School (7-9)	Building Facilitator
Tonya Olalde	Cossatot River	District Parent Representative
Linda Lyle	Cossatot River	District Representative
Amy Tadlock	Cossatot River	District Parent Representative
Gloria Strother	Cossatot River	District Representative
Cherri Counts	Cossatot River High School	Parent Representative
Kathy Hagler	Cossatot River High School	Parent Representative
Kristina Dixon	Van Cove Elementary	Parent Representative
Chrissy Squires	Van Cove Elementary	Parent Representative
Deanna Dixon	Van Cove Elementary	Parent Representative
Rachelle Eskew	Umpire Elementary School	Parent Representative
Suzann Faulkner	Umpire Elementary School	Parent Representative
Liz Parsons	Umpire High School	Parent Representative
Amanda Strasner	Umpire High School	Parent Representative
Elizabeth Dering	Wickes Elementary School	Parent Representative
Alicia Farringer	Wickes Elementary School	Parent Representative
Amanda Williams	Wickes Elementary School	Parent Representative
Gloria Pritchett	Wickes Elementary School	Teacher Representative
Maricella Avila	Wickes Elementary School	Teacher Representative
Teresa Miles	Wickes Elementary School	Teacher Representative
Janet Watkins	Van Cove Elementary	Teacher Representative
Tina Jewell	Van Cove Elementary	Teacher Representative
Jaelyn O'Neal	Umpire Elementary School	Teacher Representative
Sherry Skinner	Umpire 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. Gloria Strother will conduct an annual meeting in March to update policy for the next year's Title 1 Part A program. Mrs. Strother can be reached at 870-385-7101.

It is the mission and expectation of Cossatot River School District 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 School District 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. Mr. Davis will provide information to participating parents in such areas as national, state, and local education goals, including parents' rights as defined in Title 1 part A in the Public School meeting at the beginning of each school year.

The Cossatot River School District will conduct an annual evaluation at the beginning of each year of its parental involvement policies to examine their effect on improving school effectiveness and academic quality. The parent facilitators at each school will develop a committee and provide an opportunity for the parents to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures, and the analysis of data collected. The committee consisting of parents and other community members, certified and classified staff, and members of the administration shall participate in the annual evaluation at each school. A survey will be used to conduct the evaluation. The parent facilitators of each building will be responsible for surveys and collecting results. The evaluation will be headed by the parent facilitator of each school. The evaluation will be used to identify 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 parent facilitators will use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies. The parent facilitators of each school will also be responsible for

the development and dissemination of the annual parent evaluation report to share with parents, staff and the community.

To encourage communication with parents, Cossatot River School District 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 School District 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 libraries at each school in the district. 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 each 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

Each school in the district 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
3. Include options for those who are available to help at home

The Cossatot River School District will provide training annually for volunteers who assist in an instructional program for parents. Gina Hunter will conduct ongoing site visits to observe parental involvement practices.

To encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect their child and family, Cossatot River School District 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 School District has a Title I Parent Compact in place in each school building. 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 School District 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. Parent facilitators of each school will 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. Parents may contact their child's school parent facilitator for additional support if needed.
7. Gloria Strother will recruit parents to serve on district ACSIP committee to develop the Title 1 application.

The Cossatot River School District will make flexible schedules for volunteers, assemblies, and events to enable working parents to participate. Gloria Strother will ensure that each school has a current Parental Involvement plan and that flexible meeting times are included.

The Cossatot River High School Counselors 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.

The kindergarten teachers will coordinate Title I parent involvement activities with the local Preschool program by sponsoring a transition day from Preschool to kindergarten. This will allow students and parents to become familiar with the school environment.

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

1. The principal of each 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 every other year. Two hours of professional development opportunities for teachers will be offered every other 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 School District 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.