

District Family and Community Engagement Plan (23-24)
(Pocahontas School District)
2300 N Park St. Pocahontas AR 72455
870-892-4573

Committee Members

First Name	Last Name	Role
Kalob	Welch	District Family and Engagement Coordinator
Corbet	Clark	Parent
Christian	Helms	Adminstrator
Shawnee	Dubois	Building Coordinator-Elementary
Shannon	Barr	Co-Building Coordinator- Upper Elementary
Destiny	Craft	Co-Building Coordinator- Upper Elementary
Emily	Hausman	Building Coordinator-Junior High
Kim	Nead	Building Coordinator-High School

1. Describe how the LEA works with parents and families to develop and review relevant plans, policies, and strategies related to engagement, including establishing expectations and objectives.

The Pocahontas Public School District (PPSD) Parent and Family Engagement Plan is developed and disseminated on an annual basis and will be submitted to the Department of Education on or before August 1, 2023. The policy is found on the district website and paper copies are available in each of the buildings. The Pocahontas Parent and Family Engagement Policy and additional relevant information are located in building libraries within the section stocked especially for parents. Printed materials can be read in the library or checked out to parents. PPCSD will obtain signatures for each parent/guardian acknowledging receipt of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan summary as part of the pupil policies handbook. The Superintendent will hold an annual meeting during the first nine weeks of school. This will allow a review of the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan and invite conversation about areas of possible improvement. This will also serve to update the policy for next year's Title I, Part A program. The Superintendent will be responsible for inviting directors and supervisors of every local early childhood program to participate in age-appropriate activities. Every event will vary but will include both parents and children.

The District Coordinator will conduct an annual overview of the effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement policy in May of 2024. The committee members will look at each goal, discuss the effectiveness, and come to a consensus on changes that make the Parent and Family Engagement plan "user-friendly" for parents, students, and

district patrons. The focus will be an overview of parental involvement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. In addition, parents are included in multiple committees. Among the committees on which parents are invited to serve are Family and Community Engagement, AdvancedED, Health and Wellness, Prom, Project Graduation, and field trips. PPSD will work with the ESOL Coordinator to ensure adequate representation of parents and families or participating children are represented. The Superintendent manages Title I, Part A. At this time, the Engagement Coordinator will ensure that collaboration will be established between themselves and the School Improvement committees. After reviewing the parent surveys, it is clear that the school needs to have a goal on clear and effective communication. The school plans to increase positive survey participation. A new survey will be sent out at the beginning of the school year.

2. Describe how the district will support all its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective engagement practices.

Members of the Committee will be responsible for contacting ABC, Headstart, and St. Paul Elementary. Conversations will focus on Parent and Family Engagement practices at each site. The district Coordinator will assist building Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators to assist teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and staff in reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents as equal partners. They will also work with the ESOL Coordinator, counselors, teachers, first contact persons, language facilitators, and principals to ensure that printed information is sent home in a language and in a form that parents can understand and that assistance is available for conversation if English is not spoken. The superintendent, as well as the principal of

each building, will be responsible for making sure that each Title I school has a current Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The District Coordinator and/or Superintendent and/or Educational Technology Coordinator will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support to PPSD in:

- ✓ jointly-developing school parent and family engagement plans
- ✓ implementing effective parent and family involvement activities
- ✓ jointly-developing school-parent compacts

The Superintendent will ensure professional development requirements are met for teachers and administrators:

Require minimum professional development hours for teachers and administrators

Provide training at least annually for volunteers

3. Describe how the LEA supports parents in helping with their student's academic success.

The Superintendent holds a Title 1 meeting, a few weeks after school has started. Additionally at the start of the year, the buildings host Open House nights. This helps parents learn about the State standards and about HAC, the system that parents can use to track their students progress. The school also has literacy nights for parents and students. At this time, the majority of the information sent to parents is through newsletters. The building coordinators send these out, based on a Cognos report, that contains all parent emails. The district has a group of parents and patrons that make up the "Family and Community Engagement" committee. The purpose of this committee is

to analyze data and empirical evidence from the classroom, NWEA MAP testing, Individual Education Plans, and state assessment data. The principal and the respective, named Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator/s for each building are responsible for developing a parent engagement group at each building. The committee then plans and implements appropriate activities and events. Building principals and building involvement coordinator(s) will ensure that parents/guardians of Title I students are informed of the Title I entitled services. The District Coordinator will work with the ESOL coordinator, building involvement coordinators, and migrant tutors to inform non-English speaking families of upcoming school events and involvement opportunities. Additionally they will make sure that parents are aware of the parent resource center. The District Coordinator will be responsible for conducting a survey in the school year that is distributed to parents. The perceptual survey will allow parents to provide feedback to the Parent and Family Engagement Committee concerning the effectiveness of the activities and actions during the year.

The Superintendent will be the person responsible for requests concerning additional support.

4. Describe how the LEA will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports, services, and resources to families that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

Pocahontas District Indistar committee members are invited by The Superintendent. Pocahontas Elementary Principal Shawn Carter invites members for his committee. Pocahontas Upper Elementary Principal Chris Lindner invites members for his committee. Pocahontas Junior High Principal Eric Housh invites members for his committee. High School Principal Craig Green invites members for his committee. Members of the committee will collaborate and come to a consensus on the final report as it is developed prior to its delivery to district patrons. Pocahontas Public School District maintains two Parent Centers; one on the elementary campus and one on the secondary campus. Adults may volunteer their time in the center and assist in making educational materials for classrooms. (copies, laminating, cut-outs, etc.) The center provides educational materials to families and community members, including local resources that support families. The center provides free school supplies to students throughout the year and works in conjunction with various local civic organizations to provide "Back to School" supply drives & distribution events. Each building library has a section dedicated to parents. It contains copies of Family and Community Engagement plans, Health & Wellness Plans, educational materials, as well as other pertinent resources that provide support for families, including local services. The high school campus has a full-time career coach that works in conjunction with Black River

Technical College. The career coach and PHS counselor host events helping students and their families attain needed materials/services for students seeking college entrance. Pocahontas Junior High and Pocahontas High School host annual community engagement events that provide connections to and information from local agencies. Local businesses and services send representatives to the school (or virtually) to talk with groups of students interested in knowing more about their field. (Career Days and Wellness Days)

5. Describe how the LEA evaluates the content and effectiveness of its

Engagement Program in improving the academic quality of all schools.

Describe how the LEA reserves and uses Title I funds for parent and family engagement programs and activities.

The District Engagement Coordinator receives all of the building level plans through Indistar. They review them before they are finally submitted. They are also responsible for creating and distributing an annual survey using Google Forms. The survey will be constructed so that it allows participants to express their perception of barriers that hinder them from becoming more involved in their student engagement. A district committee, "Family and Community Engagement" is in place that looks at student performance, including test data within groups to determine possible areas of underserved students. Connecting with the parents of these students is critical to gain support for improved performance. The group identifies methods that may have bearing on performance. Not only are parents included as committee members but they contribute a valuable viewpoint that is not necessarily a "school" perspective. The data can also help identify potential local organizations that the school may want to partner

with. The Superintendent and building principals are responsible for distributing the survey findings and following through with suggestions made and recommendations that are pertinent and possible regarding student performance and changes that would improve the District's Parent and Family Engagement Plan. They also have the ability to reach out to local organizations to gain their involvement in their buildings. The Superintendent or their designee is responsible for the dissemination of the yearly Parent and Family Engagement Plan to each student household. Any changes will replace irrelevant materials and current information will be included in the plan so that parents can be fully informed of the plan.