



Family and Community Engagement 2020-21 school year

Family and Community Engagement

Crossett Elementary recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the school, the student, and the family. Our goal is to create a culture of care and academic excellence in which school staff and parents work together to meet the needs of all students. CES believes that family engagement includes the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, meaningful, communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.



Crossett Elementary is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop, with parents, family and community members a written Family and Community Engagement policy.

Title 1 Funds

At the virtual Title 1 meeting on September 17, 2020, parents will be informed of the Title 1 allocation for parent and family engagement activities and programs and how the funds are being used to improve student achievement and family engagement.

How is the Plan Developed and Revised?

The Family and Community Engagement Plan is jointly developed and revised with input from parents, family and community members, and CES staff. Family volunteers, representing the diversity of our students, are encouraged to participate on the Family and Community Engagement Committee, along with community members and staff. Committee meetings are held regularly throughout the school year with flexible meeting times to allow for optimum participation.

Parent and community input is gathered throughout the school year through a variety of sources, including e-mail, parent surveys, and parent feedback forms. The plan is reviewed and revised annually to meet the changing needs of families and the school.

Surveys will be distributed at the end of the 2020-21 school year to gather feedback to determine:

1. The extent of family engagement;
2. How well each component of the Plan has been implemented;
3. The extent to which each component was successful;
4. The impact of engagement on improvements in achievement and on the quality of the educational program;
5. To identify any problems or barriers to more effective implementation and involvement.

These meetings allow parents to be collectively involved in the review and revision of the school's Family and Community Engagement Plan.

Parents and families are invited to our annual Parent Meeting, held in the Spring of each school year, to evaluate the Plan survey results along with Title 1 funding. The committee will discuss and revise the Plan in order to focus on building strengths and improving any weak areas. If requested, the committee will meet on additional occasions. Any parent comments that indicate dissatisfaction regarding the Title 1 Schoolwide Plan will be submitted to the district by the building facilitator.

School-Parent Compact

School staff, parents, and family members have developed a School/Parent Compact outlining the expectations for parents/families, school staff, and students who share responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents/families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. The Compact is signed by the student, parent, teacher, and principal, and copies are provided to parents.

The compact is reviewed yearly during the end-of-the-year Family and Community Engagement meeting and revisions are made as needed.



Families of CES students are invited to attend the virtual Title 1 Meeting on September 17, 2020. Notice of the meeting will be sent through school newsletters, phone calls, social media, and parent-teacher communication. The meeting will inform parents of the school's participation in and requirements under Title 1, including the allocation of Title 1 funds and how these funds are used to supplement school services. Parents rights under Title 1 will be explained, along with ways to become involved in school decision-making and activities. Faculty will be available to answer any questions and contact information for the CES FACE facilitator will be provided.

Communication

A CES informational packet will be distributed during Open House on August 6, 2020, and will include:

- Information regarding parent/student/teacher/school roles;
- A copy of the school/parent compact;
- The importance of regular, two-way communication between parent, teacher, and principal (via phone, text, School Messenger, social media, email, etc...);
- A parent friendly summary of the Family and Community Engagement Plan (also available in Spanish, if requested);
- A survey for volunteer interests and suggested volunteer opportunities;
- Name and contact information for the CES Family and Community Engagement facilitator.

Documents in the informational packet will also be available on the school website and will be reviewed and updated yearly, as needed.

CES will communicate frequently with parents about students' academic progress through progress reports, report cards, emails, text messages, Google Classroom, Class Dojo, and phone calls. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher with any questions or concerns. All CES teachers, administrators and staff are available by phone, email or in person during designated times and utilizing appropriate safety precautions.



Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for October 19, 2020, and February 10, 2021. At these conferences, teachers will meet individually with families of students in their classrooms. Parents will receive a summary and clarification of the student's test scores and an explanation of any interventions the school is using to assist the student in reaching achievement goals. Parents will be provided resources for supporting academic achievement at home, along with explanations of homework and grading procedures. Additional conferences may be requested by the parent or teacher at any time during the school year.

Family and Community Engagement seminars will be held during parent/teacher conferences and will include ways for parents to become involved in the school and in their child's education.



CES will hold a virtual back-to-school Open House on August 6, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. to allow parents and students to connect with teachers and staff. Informational packets will be distributed on the first day of school for on site students and distributed to remote learners during orientation the week of October 17. Teachers and staff will provide contact information and answer any questions from parents and students.



Volunteer surveys included in the informational packet will be used to create a volunteer resource book which will be maintained in the Parent Center (located in the CES library). The resource book will list interests, preferences, and availability of volunteers and is easily accessible to help match school needs with volunteer interests. Volunteers will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of roles, including helping from home and participating in a classroom remotely. Staff will be encouraged to use the resource book to welcome parents into the school (remotely or with appropriate precautions). An online Volunteer Form will be developed to make it easier for staff to access and allow volunteers to sign up at any time.



The Parent Resource Center is located in the CES library and is open daily, Monday-Friday, allowing parents the opportunity to browse through and check out materials to help their children achieve academic success. Parents and school staff are encouraged to contribute ideas for purchase to support the Parent Center. In collaboration with the classroom teacher, the parent facilitator will provide specific materials from the Parent Center or the school library to be used at home if parents are unable to visit the school. Please contact Mrs. Leslie in the library (870) 364-6521, ext. 308, leslie.mansur@crosssettschools.org or CES parent facilitator Linda Myers: linda.myers@crosssettschools.org to set up a time to visit the Parent Center. Two desktop computers and a printer are also available for parent use in the school library during the school day. School staff is available to help parents work with children to improve achievement, including literacy training, and using technology to support parent and community engagement.

Coordination of Community Services

CES coordinates with community partners to provide additional resources and support to students and families.

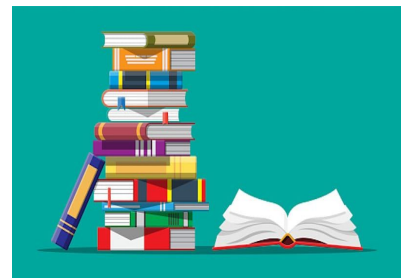
- A local sorority, Beta Sigma Phi, and local churches coordinate to run a Backpack Program which provides food/snacks on weekends for students identified as needing assistance.
- The public library provides resources in the form of computers, books, internet, and Saturday story time. Second grade students take a field trip to the library to celebrate Seuss Day where they rotate through different stations consisting of games, snacks, crafts, story time, and a library tour. The library also runs a children's summer program to encourage reading throughout the summer and is involved in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library which provides free monthly books for children under five to help stress the importance of literacy at home.
- Junior Auxiliary of Crossett sponsors an Angel Tree program for elementary students and their younger siblings. Applications are available in the school office and teachers/staff are encouraged to recommend students.
- SEARK Concert Association invites 3rd grade students to a kid-friendly musical theater performance at the University of Arkansas at Monticello each spring.
- Boys and Girls Club of Ashley County provides students and families with an after-school resource for child-care, homework help, and summer enrichment activities.
- CES has an active Parent Teacher Organization which encourages parent and community involvement within the school. The PTO provides Coke packs for all students for Valentine's Day, helps with book fairs and Field Day, and provides staff lunches during Teacher Appreciation Week. The PTO raises funds for the school through a Fall Festival, Sweetheart Dance and other events throughout the year. PTO members serve on various school committees and are responsible for decisions affecting students and families.
- CES will recruit alumni to create an alumni advisory committee to provide additional advice and guidance for school improvement.
- The FACE Plan is incorporated in the school's improvement plan.

Building Capacity of School Staff

CES utilizes professional development to enhance the awareness and skills of its staff in understanding the value of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, contribute with, and work with parents as equal partners, and to implement and coordinate parent programs to strengthen ties between the school and parents.

CES recognizes that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning and includes in the policy handbook the school's process for resolving parental concerns, which include how to define a problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop effective solutions.

The school staff meets all requirements for professional development identified in the Arkansas Department of Education Rules.



Questions: Contact the CES Family and Community Involvement facilitator:

Linda Myers, linda.myers@crossettschools.org or contact the CES office at (870) 364-6521