

Parental Involvement Policy For Barton-Lexa School District

The Barton-Lexa School District values the importance of a supportive and productive relationship with parents and the community in promoting excellence in our students' academic development. We are dedicated to building and maintaining an ongoing plan that will assist in facilitating a collaborative bond with parents and the community.

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Barton-Lexa School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a School-Parent Compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children and will provide information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state department of education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A

schools in decisions about how the 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95% of the 1% reserved goes directly to the schools.

- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring

(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

(C) that 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; and

(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the existence and purpose of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the state.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Barton-Lexa School District will involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA.

- The district will employ a certified teacher as parent facilitator to assist in maintaining a positive collaborative relationship with parents, community members, and district personnel and to ensure federal, state and local requirements for parental involvement are met.
- The district will form a committee of parents, community members, and district personnel to collaborate on the development of the district-wide parental involvement plan,

- The committee will review ADE standards and research strategies to increase parental involvement.
- The committee will present the parental involvement plan/policy to the school board for approval.

2. The Barton-Lexa School District will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA.

- Each school will include parents on its ACSIP committee.
- Parents will be involved in developing Academic Improvement Plans, 504 Plans, Individualized Education Plans and Behavior Modification Plans.
- Parents will meet regularly with district personnel to discuss concerns and make suggestions to improve student learning.
- Committees consisting of parents, teachers, administrators, and community members will be formed for the purpose of reviewing and revising the student handbook and developing and maintaining parental involvement policies based on ADE standards.
- Parents and community members will be invited to participate in an alumni committee to enhance student learning.

3. The Barton-Lexa School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

- Parents will participate in Math and Literacy Nights.
- Parents will be able to monitor student progress through computer based technology.
- Parents will be encouraged to continue their involvement in improving the Barton-Lexa School District participation in the alumni organization.

4. The Barton-Lexa School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:

- *A Better Chance Program (ABC)*
- *Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas GED Program*
- *Delta Area Health Education Center (AHEC)*
- *Arkansas Department of Human Services and Health*
- *Phillips County Developmental Center*
- *Counseling Consultants*
- *Faith Based Organizations*

5. The Barton-Lexa School District will build capacity of school staff and parents to

create strong parental involvement programs, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. The following strategies will be used:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:

- o the state's academic content standards,
- o the state's student academic achievement standards,
- o the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- o the requirements of Title I, Part A,
- o how to monitor their child's progress, and
- o how to work with educators.

The Barton-Lexa School District does this by:

- facilitating parental training sessions explaining the state's academic content standards and the state's student academic achievement standards,
- providing trainings from school district and outside agencies to improve monitoring of student progress and building positive relationships between parents, teachers, and students, and

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- o providing parental involvement professional development as required by the Arkansas Department of Education
- o offering opportunities for additional parental involvement professional development
- o providing professional development on utilizing technology, that can be used to increase parental communication and involvement

C. The school district will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request. These activities may include, but are not limited to:

- post upcoming events on the district's web site and provide information about upcoming events to local media outlets and through the call cast system

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The Barton-Lexa School District, in consultation with parents, will utilize discretion in undertaking the following activities based on parents' needs in order to support their child's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities;
- establishing a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs; and
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This district-wide parental involvement policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by sign in sheets and minutes of the Barton-Lexa School District's Parental Involvement Committee meetings.

This policy was adopted by the Barton-Lexa School District on [11/12/13] and will be in effect for the period of 1 year.

[Signature of Authorized Official]

[Date]

