

2014-2015
BRINKLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The Brinkley 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 school and community. Our desire is to facilitate the process by which school team members and parents can best work together to achieve common goal of educating children. We are committed to working with parents as knowledgeable partners, sharing the responsibility for the student's educational achievement. Therefore, Brinkley School District shall strive to develop and maintain a plan 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. The following is a comprehensive list of activities and opportunities for parents to become involved their student's educational process.

I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Involve parents of students at all grade levels 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 consultation with parents of participating children in a variety of roles, by ensuring the efforts are both comprehensive and coordinated in nature.
 - a. 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.
 - b. The Brinkley School District will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
 - c. 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, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
 - d. 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.
 - e. The Brinkley School District will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A

funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

- f. The Brinkley 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.
- g. The Parent Involvement Plan will be placed on the District's website, placed in the teacher center at each campus, copies placed in the principals and counselors' office at each school, and made available to parents at open house and parent-teacher conferences.

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

- that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- 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
- the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

a. the District will ensure that information related to the school, school events, and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be well publicized. This information will be sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. This will be done through a variety of means including but not limited to the following:

1. Communication will be conducted annually through informational packets distributed annually to the parent/guardian of each child in the district at the beginning of the school year.
2. Letters, flyers, or notices sent home through the student.
3. Public service announcements shared through the media outlets including KXJK/KBFC radio station, Brinkley Argus, and the District's website.
4. Phone messages from the district phone notification system, School Cast. These may be district wide messages or notices from individual teacher's or groups.
5. Annual meetings will be held during the first semester sharing information with parents regarding: what students will be learning, how students will be assessed, what parent's expectations should be for their child's education, and how parents can assist and make a difference in their child's education. Parents will be notified about the

meeting through the local media, the district's webpage, letter sent home to parents from building level facilitators: Doris Archable (high school and Meriam Turner (elementary).

6. Workshops, Trainings, and Family Nights will be held periodically throughout the school year on a variety of topics sharing information and resources with parents.
 7. Parent Involvement surveys, inquiring of volunteer interests with the schools, along with a district needs assessment survey will be distributed at the beginning of the school.
 8. Through Ed-Line, an on-line record keeping and communication tool utilized by many teachers.
 9. Through Parent/ Teacher conferences throughout the school year.
- a. The District encourages parents/guardians to communicate with the school in a variety of methods as well including:
 1. Through Parent/Teacher conferences
 2. Through Ed-Line
 3. Through email messages
 4. Through phone messages
 5. Through conferences or scheduled appointment with teachers and administrators
 6. Through letters or notes
 7. Through parent surveys
 8. Through phone surveys conducted by School Cast, phone notification system
 3. The District will maintain a current and useful Parent Center. The Brinkley School District will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.
4. The District intends to promote and support responsible parenting.
 - a. When possible this will be done by collecting or purchasing parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials or curriculum. These materials will be made available through campus libraries, parent centers, or distributed during specified family nights or parenting activities/workshops.
 - b. Parents/guardians will also be encouraged to feel welcome and a part of the educational process. Each school will be inviting and treat parents as well as community patrons as partners. Parents will be encouraged to visit their child's classroom and participate in class parties, field trips, programs, etc...while following campus policies regarding visitor procedures.
 - c. Parents/guardians may be called on from time to time by teachers or district team members to participate in certain events or committees by giving input and perspective.
 - d. The District will encourage and support Parent Teacher Associations at each campus, fostering parental and community involvement within the school.

- e. Instruction will be shared with parents/guardians on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitations:
 1. Role play and demonstration by trained volunteers
 2. The use of and access to department of education website tools for parents
 3. Assistance with nutritional and meal planning preparation
 4. Other strategies or curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education.

5. One certified staff member from each school (Doris Roark – Secondary and Meriam Turner – elementary) will be designated to serve as a parent facilitator to:
 - a. Help organize meaningful training for staff and parents
 - b. Promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere to foster parental involvement in the school
 - c. To undertake efforts ensuring that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school.

6. The District will offer:
 - a. No fewer than (2) hours of professional development opportunities for teachers designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.
 - b. No fewer than (3) hours of professional development opportunities for administrators, designed to enhance understanding of:
 - Effective parental involvement strategies
 - The importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation
 - c. An annual training for volunteers who assist in an instructional program for parents.
 - d. The effectiveness of the parent involvement policy will be reviewed by the superintendent (Arthur Tucker), principals Samuel White- Secondary and Linda Hamilton – Elementary), and the building-level parent facilitators (Doris Roark – Secondary and Meriam Turner – Elementary).

7. Parent Involvement Committee

Arthur Tucker, Superintendent	Tammy Green, Parent
Linda Hamilton, Principal	Nancy Garrett, Paraprofessional
Samuel White, Principal	Doris Roark, Teacher
Meriam Turner, Teacher	Amanda Parson, Parent
Ethel Wilkins, Parent	Dorothy Cole, Parent
Yolanda Roby, Parent	Randolph Fowler, Parent
Melody Harris, Parent	

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

1. The Brinkley School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

- The Parent Involvement Plan will be developed, and approved by the Parental Involvement District Planning Committee (PIDC).
- The PIDC will review the Parental Involvement Plan annually and revise it, as needed by Arthur Tucker, Superintendent of Schools.
- Brinkley School District will post the plan on the District's website.

2. The Brinkley School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- Encourage all staff to become members of the parent/teacher organizations, Booster Clubs or other parent groups that can be used to respond to the issues of interested parents.
- Encourage schools to form School Improvement Planning committees that include parent participation in order to meet the educational needs of the students.
- Require schools to provide parents with current information regarding school policies, and practices through the student handbook.
- Require schools to provide parents with current information regarding school performance data (solicit parent input and feedback). This will be accomplished through the School Report Cards distributed by the Arkansas Department of Education.
- Provide an opportunity for the parents to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures, including analysis of data collected.

3. The Brinkley 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:

- Administrators will budget appropriate funds for activities that support parent involvement.
- All members of the school district will be asked to support parent involvement activities.
- The district will encourage parents to be participants in the learning experience and school activities of their children.

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

- Through meetings and or communication with key people from other programs such as Head Start, HIPPPY, Parents as Partners, Family Literacy, and State-operated preschool programs.
- The school district, in collaboration with parents, shall establish programs and practices that enhance parent involvement at all grade levels and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

5. The Brinkley School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). Arthur Tucker will be responsible.

The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies. Arthur Tucker will be responsible for sharing the information.

Develop and disseminate an annual parent activity evaluation report to share with parents, staff and the community. Building level facilitators (Doris Roark and Meriam Turner).

- The district will have parents complete a Title I survey at the end of the school year. Results from the survey will be analyzed and be shared with administrators and staff. Information from these surveys will be considered to make reasonable changes in next year's program. Arthur Tucker and building level parent facilitators.
- **District administrators will conduct onsite visits to evaluate the implementation of the Parent Involvement Plan.**
- **Building level facilitators (Doris Roark and Miriam Turner) in addition to district and building administrators will send information is sent home to parents.**

III. BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

1. The Brinkley School District **through building level parent facilitators (Doris Roark and Miriam Turner)** will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong

parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The Brinkley 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 --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators
 - Persons responsible: Meriam Turner and Doris Roark

This will be done through:

- Parent Orientations
- Annual Open House
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- District Sponsored Workshops
- Website

B. The Brinkley School District will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- See 2a

C. The Brinkley 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:

- Provide staff development with a focus on working with parents as resources, and providing opportunities for parents to participate in the education of their children.

D. The Brinkley School District will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs,

and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- HIPPY

E. The Brinkley School District has a Limited English Proficient (LEP) program and is willing to assist any LEP family. Those interested may contact the Title 1 office.

F. Assist in the development of parent engagement groups at each school. Building level parent facilitators will be responsible.

PART IV. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The Brinkley School District, under section 1118(e) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, exercises its right to include parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training by:

- 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;
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- Establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
 - Coordinate parental involvement activities with those of other programs such as Head Start program, Reading First program, Early Reading First program, Even Start program, Parents as Teachers program and Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters and State-run preschool programs.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and

- Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

- Ensure, to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and form parents can understand.
- Monitor each Title I, Part A School to ensure that each school performs the tasks required.

Goal V: How will the district involve parents in the joint development of the district Title I Application under section 1112 (ACSIP)?

Recruit parents to serve on district ACSIP committee to develop the Title I Application. Building level administrators, building level facilitators, and district administrators.