

## North Little Rock School District

### North Little Rock, AR

#### 2016 – 2017 District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

##### Parent Involvement Committee Members

Chris Keeling, Parent

Dustin Davis, Parent

Jessica Davis, Parent

Danette Lawson, Parent

Jessica Griffith, Parent

Keitra Brooks, Parent

Susan Stewart, Community Member

Kelly Rodgers, Superintendent of NLR Schools

Micheal Stone, NLRSD Executive Director of Student and Equity Services

Maria Touchstone, NLRSD ESL Director

Mandy Stuckey, NLRSD PTA Council President and Parent

Kristie Ratliff, NLRSD Director of Professional Development, School Improvement and Federal Programs

Julie Drake, NLRSD Parental Involvement Facilitator

##### **Goal 1: How will the LEA foster effective Parent Involvement strategies and support partnerships among school, parents and the community to improve student achievement?**

The Parent Involvement Program in the North Little Rock School District shall:

- \* Involve parents of students at all grade levels in a variety of roles,
- \* be comprehensive and coordinated,
- \* Recognize communication between the home and the District should be regular, two-way and meaningful.

To take advantage of community resources the District will:

- \* Hold regular meetings of the North Little Rock Parent and Family Council which will meet to review and evaluate the district's parent involvement plan as well as providing community resources to positively impact student success. Meeting dates are September 28, 2016; January

25, 2017; and April 26, 2017. Meetings are at 1:00 pm and will be held at the Conference Room at Central Office, 2700 Poplar Street, NLR. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013.

- \* Have representation and involvement with a variety of community and education organizations and boards which ultimately benefits the students of North Little Rock.

- \* The North Little Rock School District will recruit and maintain relationships with district and school business partners utilizing community resources to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.

- \* Enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association to foster parental and community involvement within the school. Leaders of this organization shall be utilized in appropriate decisions affecting children and families. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013.

The District will hold a Title I meeting to update policy for the next school year on Thursday, April 20 at 5:00 pm at the Board Room at Central Office, 2700 Poplar Street, NLR. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013.

The principal of each school will designate one certified staff member (who shall receive supplemental pay for the assigned duties as required by law) who is willing to serve as a parent facilitator to:

- \* organize meaningful training for staff and parents.

- \* Promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere to foster parental involvement in the schools.

- \* Undertake efforts to ensure parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school. Julie Drake 771-8013

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. Contact Maria Touchstone, ESL Director 771-8046.

The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decision 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 parent involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition. Contact Kristie Ratliff 771-8025.

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

- \*parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education

- \*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

- \*the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

Contact Julie Drake 771-8013.

The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parental involvement programs, meetings, and other activities is 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.

- \* Provide hard copies of the plan to each school,
- \* Place the plan on the district website,

\* Share the plan with parents in public forums, i.e. board meetings, school programs, etc. The district will continue their relationship with the Immigration Center at Seus Peuntes with information for these families in their native language for ease of understanding and to support their programs for our families.

Contact Julie Drake 771-8013 or parent facilitators at school.

The school district will host informational workshops, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools to provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or schools, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:

- \* The state's academic content standards
- \* The state's student academic achievements standards
- \* The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- \* The requirements of Title I, part A
- \* How to monitor their child's progress
- \* How to work with educators

The school district will host an annual meeting the in the spring to update policy for next school year's Title I programs. This meeting will be held with Title I schools and the community.

Contact Julie Drake 771-8013

If additional information in regards to a specific school, those contact names and numbers are as follows:

Amboy Tiffany Bruce 771-8185; Boone Park Kim Barton 340-5160; Crestwood Lori Hart 771-8190; Glenview Kathy Timmons 955-3630; Indian Hills Jennifer France 835-5622; Lakewood Elementary Cortney Sexton 771-8270; Meadow Park Emily Stadther 955-3620; Ridgeroad Elementary Anita Pride 771-8180; Seventh Street Amy White 340-5170; NLRHS Gwen Leger 771-8275; NLRHS; NLR Academy Otis Banks 340-5190; NLR Middle School Dawn Stane 771-8250.

**Goal 2: How will the district provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating school in planning and implementing effective parental involvement?**

To encourage communications with parents, each school in the North Little Rock School District shall prepare Family Informational Packets - appropriate for the age and grade of each child - which describe:

- \* The school's parent involvement program
- \* The recommended roles of the parents, students, teachers and school,
- \* Options for the parents to become involved in their children's total educational program,

- \* Activities planned throughout the school year to encourage parent involvement,
- \* A system to permit parents and teachers to communicate in a regular, two-way and meaningful manner with their children's teachers and their children's principals. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013

To promote/support responsible parenting, as funds are available, the North Little Rock School District shall ensure:

- \* The purchase of parenting magazines and other informative materials regards responsible parenting, advertise the current selections, give parents opportunities to borrow the books, magazines, and other informative materials for review.
- \* Each building create an effective parent center (e.g. library, counselor's office or Principal's office)
- \* each building plan and engage in other activities determined by the school to be beneficial for the promotion and support of responsible parenting. Contact Julie Drake at 771-8013.

To help parents assist students during their learning processes, the District will ensure that each school will:

- \* Schedule regular parent involvement meetings in order that parents may be given a report on the state of the school and overview of:
  - What students will be learning,
  - How students will be assessed
  - What parents should expect concerning their children's education,
  - How parents can assist and make a difference in the education of their children.
- \* Engage in other activities determined by the school to help parents assist in their children's learning.

These activities will be monitored by the District Parent Facilitator, along with the individual school's Parent Facilitator, Principals, Executive Director of Elementary Education, Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent of Schools. We will monitor by end of the year documentation and throughout the year by monthly calendars, sign in sheets, facebook and website postings along with attendance of events. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013 for further information.

The North Little Rock School District will ensure there are professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators to include no less than two hours, which may be included in the minimum numbers of hours of professional development required annually, of professional development designed to enhance teacher understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. The NLRSD will follow the Arkansas Department of Education schedule of professional development.

The North Little Rock School District has purchased a license for all schools in the District for Connect with Kids Webservice. This website will allow students, families and staff to have a selection of videos to watch ranging from bullying, health and wellness, personal achievement. Staff will be able to use this information in class while parents and families will have access from their home or internet sources. Monthly newsletters will be distributed at the school's Parent Centers. Videos are available in Spanish also. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013

The North Little Rock School District shall provide training at least annually for volunteers who assist in an instructional program for parents. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013

The North Little Rock 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). these 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 compact shall:

- \* Describe the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction
- \* Address the importance of communication between teachers and parent on an ongoing basis through parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents on their child's progress and reasonable access to staff.

Contact Rosie Coleman – Executive Director of Elementary Education 771-8021 or Dr. Beth Stewart Assistant Superintendent 771-8009.

If additional information in regards to a specific school is needed, contact Parent Facilitators at individual schools. Name of the school, facilitator and phone number are listed under Goal 1.

### **Goal 3: How will the district build the school's capacity for strong parent involvement?**

The District and its schools may plan and engage in other activities determined by them to be beneficial in the fostering of effective communication with parents.

\* The district will publish a district-wide newsletter, "The New Directions" in the fall of each year. Elementary parents will receive a copy sent home through student backpacks. Secondary parents will receive a copy at Open House and/or Parent Teacher Conferences. An Annual Report will be published by November 15 and include important and helpful information to families. Contact Superintendent of Schools office 771-8006.

\* Parents and students will have access to ESchool – Home Access Center and School Messenger in order to check student grades, school announcements, etc. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013.

To encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions affecting their children and families, the North little Rock School District shall ensure that:

\* Each school include in its policy handbook the process for resolving parent concerns, including how to define the problem, whom to first approach and how to develop solutions for solving the problem. This procedure is also outlined in the North Little Rock School District Parent-Student Handbook.

\* The high school will sponsor seminars/CAP conferences to inform parents of high school students how to be involved in the decisions affecting course selections, career planning and

preparation for post-secondary opportunities.

\* Each school engages in other activities that the school determines will encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions affecting their children. Contact Micheal Stone 771-8009.

\*Parents will be involved on the District Wellness Committee to assist with reviews of the plan and policies as they relate to the wellness of our students and staff. Contact Heather Rhodes-Newburn 771-8037

To assist in welcoming parents in the school and to assist in seeking parents support and assistance, the North Little Rock School District will ensure:

\* The District, nor any of its schools, will implement any policy or procedure that will discourage a parent from visiting their child's classroom.

\* The North Little Rock School District will assist the schools in publishing a volunteer resource book that lists the interests and availability of volunteers for school staff members' use. Parents will be surveyed requesting their specific interest so volunteer work will be meaningful. A determination will be made concerning how frequently a volunteers desires to participate including the option of one time per year. Options will also be included for those who are available to help at home. The volunteer resource book will be utilized to help correlate school needs with volunteer interest.

\* The District and its schools will engage in other activities determined by the school to be designed to welcome parents in the school. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013

The school district will, with the assistance of it schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their child to improve their child's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate , to foster parental involvement, by:

\* Hosting literacy and math nights where parents learn, in detail, what the academic expectations are for their children as well as methods by which they can assists, and

\* The district's parent centers will contain materials that parents can check out designed to provide information to parents as to how they can assist with improving their child's academic achievement. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013

**Goal 4: How will the district conduct, with the involvement of parents, ongoing evaluations of the content and effectiveness of the Parent Involvement Policy as it relates to strategies for increasing parental participation and identifying barriers to greater participation?**

The North Little Rock School District shall review and update the District Parent Involvement Plan and will file a copy of the Plan with the Department of Education. The members of the North Little Rock Family Involvement Council, consisting of parents and family members shall do the review. Contact - Julie Drake 771-8013

Parents will be surveyed to evaluate the parent involvement program. This survey will be available on the district's website as well as by paper copies available in school offices. Several schools host events like Parent Academy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cup of Coffee, SLAM Nights which encourages family involvement in the schools. Notices are sent when sessions are held. This school year, make and take games for literacy and math, cooking healthy over Christmas Break, financial planning are just a few topics planned. Information is sent and available to all schools. Contact

Julie Drake 771-8013.

This plan shall be part of the district's Title I plan and shall be distributed to parents of the districts' student and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Contact Julie Drake 771-8013

The North Little Rock 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 plan 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). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement plan 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.

\* The North Little Rock Family Involvement Council will be responsible for evaluating the parent involvement plan on an annual basis.

\* Parent surveys, conducted at both the district and school levels, will provide the foundation of the evaluation process.

\* Based on parental feedback, aligned with research based best practice regarding parental involvement, the plan will be revised, as needed, to facilitate greater parental involvement within the district.

The information gathered through evaluating the District Parent Involvement Plan along with parent surveys will be used to share with the parents, staff, and community an update of improvement, opportunities and involvement within the school district. District Parent Facilitator will be responsible for gathering information and disseminating information.

Contact Julie Drake 771-8013

**Goal 5: How will the district involve parents in the joint development of the district Title I Application under section 1112 (ACSIP)?**

Parents and family members will be recruited to serve on district/school level ACSIP committee to develop the Title I application and to review the ACSIP parental involvement piece. This group will be led by Kristie Ratliff, Director of School Improvement, Professional Development and Federal programs. 771-8025.

Parents and family members will be a part of the NLR Family Involvement Council. All families are welcome to attend these committee meetings.

The Family Involvement Council will work with the business community, non-profits and faith based groups in the community to partner with the District and schools to provide support better support from our community to our students.

An annual survey will be completed district wide in April 2017 to gather information on important issues in regards to the students, parents and families of the North Little Rock School District. A survey, along with community meetings, was completed during the 15-16 school

year to our families. Communication continues to be a major priority with our families. Families receive information from the District in several ways. The Top 3 were (1) social media (2) their student's teacher and (3) word of mouth. The Top 3 preferences of how they would like to receive information are (1) social media (2) district newsletter and (3) district website. The district has a new website this school year. As parents learn how to navigate it the hope is that it will be much easier than the previous one. An additional help to the families is an app for the website and eschool. Those parents who are using both of these seem to enjoy having the information at their fingertips and find what they need.