

AR
Lawrence County School District
508 East Free Street
Walnut Ridge AR 72476
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District Engagement Plan*

Please read over the form closely, being sure to address all guiding questions. Note the Assurances section allows you to confirm practices that are required but do not need further elaboration within the written portion of your plan. In the response fields, you may include links to additional information that can help support your story as you answer the guiding questions. At the bottom of this form, you will find guidance on the required documentation upload for Federal Monitoring for 2023-24.

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

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.

Guiding Questions

- **1.1:** *How does the LEA involve parents in the development and review of the District Engagement Plan, the School Improvement/Title I Schoolwide/Title I Targeted Assistance Plan and, if applicable, the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plans?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(2); A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(a)]
- **1.2:** *What efforts have been made to ensure adequate representation of parents and families of participating children in the process (Title I families)?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(1)]
- **1.3:** *How has the Engagement Coordinator and/or Committee worked with the School Improvement/District Support Committees in order to incorporate the Engagement Plan into the Schoolwide Plan?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(2)]
- **1.4:** *What expectations and measurable objectives has the LEA established for meaningful family and community engagement?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(2)]

1. The Lawrence County School District will work with parents and families to develop and review relevant plans, policies, and strategies related to engagement, including establishing expectations and objectives. The LCSD will recruit parents for the LCSD Parent and Family Engagement Committee. Recognizing that parents should be full partners in the decisions that affect their children and family, and that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning, the district parental engagement committee will be comprised of both staff and parents. The committee will create a plan that is comprehensive and coordinated in nature and one that supports meaningful two-way communication between home and school. Dyan Heard will ensure the completion of this action.

The district Parent and Family Engagement Committee shall:

- Develop a District Parent and Family Engagement Plan
- Implement District Parent and Family Engagement activities
- Submit the Parent and Family Engagement Plan in Indistar by August 1
- Place the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan on the district website by August 1
- Disseminate information to the community to promote parent and family engagement in the Title I, Part A schools.

Parents will be part of the District Parent Engagement Committee. The team will be responsible for leading the review, revision (when necessary) and implementation of policies regarding every aspect of school improvement.

2. The district will host an annual Title I Meeting each spring to discuss any changes that have occurred in the program during the school year and updates that need to be made for the coming school year. Parents are invited to attend and are involved in decisions regarding how funds are allotted for activities. (Lawrence County School District receives less than the required amount of funds for set-aside and Walnut Ridge High School is not a Title I school). For the 2023-2024 school year, this meeting will be held in June. LCSD will host an annual Title I meeting during the fall each year. These meetings may provide information to parents about curriculum, the parent's right to request information pertaining to the professional qualifications of teachers; the state of the school as reported on the Annual Report Card; student assessment reports; the school's progress in comparison to other districts; complaint procedures regarding Title I issues; the right of disabled parents to request aids for communication with the school; the Parent Engagement Plan; and the School-Parent Compact.

3. Since we are a small school district, members of the Family Engagement Committee also participate in the School Improvement Committee. The committees will ensure that all parents have the opportunity to play an active role in the school improvement process. These opportunities may occur through surveys, parent meetings, school-wide and/or district-wide meetings, etc.

4. Our parent involvement in activities supported by the school is awesome; however, due to COVID-19 and background checks for parent volunteers, our parent volunteers' involvement has decreased significantly. Our goal for this year is to increase our parent volunteer involvement.

2: Building Staff Capacity

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

Guiding Questions

- **2.1:** *How will the district provide support and technical assistance to all of its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices? This includes*
 - *jointly-developing school engagement plans*
 - *implementing effective parent and family involvement activities*
 - *jointly-developing school-parent compacts*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(2)(B)]
- **2.2:** *How does the LEA build staff capacity to work with parents as equal partners? This may include workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, and online resources that will be used to ensure ALL school staff are aware of:*
 - *the value and utility of contributions of parents*
 - *how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners*
 - *how to implement and coordinate parent programs*
 - *how to build ties between parents and the school*

[ESSA § 1116(e)(3)]
- **2.3:** *How will the district ensure information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is provided to parents in a format and in a language that parents can understand (to the extent practicable)?*
 - *How are you ensuring that relevant information is provided in a variety of ways? (For example, paper copies made available, as well as social media posts, website links, parent apps, etc.?)*

[ESSA § 1116(e)(5)]

1. The LCSD will provide support and technical assistance to WRES in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices by including:

- Jointly-developed school parent and family engagement plans
- Implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance
- Jointly-developing a school-family compact

2. Ensure the awareness and enhance the skills of teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals,

and other school leaders, and other staff, to work with parents as equal partners, so that ALL staff are aware of:

- The value and utility of contributions of parents
- How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
- How to implement and coordinate parent programs
- How to build ties between parents and the school

3. Instruction and communication are accomplished in a variety of ways during teacher meetings, through emails. Translations are available as needed to help teachers fully communicate with and meet the needs of all parents.

- Provide training at least annually for volunteers.
- Provide parent-friendly summaries and copies of the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan to any stakeholder who wishes a copy. Signatures from parents acknowledging the receipt of the plan will be maintained.
- Provide a copy of the school policy at each school for parents to view as well as provide a copy to each parent. In addition, the district and each school's parent and family engagement plan is posted on the school website.
- Ensure that parents of children with disabilities or limited English proficiency have the same access as other parents including information in a language and form, they can understand.
- Ensure, to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and form parents can understand. Every effort is made to reach parents with pertinent information, and when necessary informational content is translated for better communication. Print, phone messages, e-mail, website, school's Facebook pages, and Remind app are all utilized as modes to reach parents. Building Principals are responsible for ensuring that this happens. Contact your child's principal's office.
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3: Building Parent Capacity

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

Guiding Questions

- **3.1:** *How will the LEA provide assistance to parents in understanding the following?*
 - *the challenging State academic standards*
 - *State and local academic assessments*
 - *the requirements of Title I, Part A*
 - *how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children*

[ESSA § 1116(e)(1)]
- **3.2:** *What types of materials and training does the LEA provide to help parents work with their children to improve achievement? This may include:*
 - *literacy training*
 - *technology training, including education about copyright piracy and safe practices*
 - *resources that describe or assist with the child's curriculum*
 - *other activities such as workshops, conferences, online resources like tutorials or webinars, and any equipment or other materials, including parent resource centers*

[ESSA § 1116(e)(2); ESSA § 1116(e)(4)]
- **3.3:** *In what ways does the LEA conduct outreach to ALL Title I, Part A parents and family members (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)?*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(1)]

1. LCSD will provide any reasonable support for parental involvement at the request of parents of the schools in the district. LCSD will involve parents through regularly scheduled parent and community engagement meetings, Remind (Parent-Teacher App), and surveys to improve school effectiveness. During these meetings, parents will be provided a description and explanation of the curriculum used in the school, types of assessment, proficiency levels and information about national, state and local goals including parents' rights as defined in Title I, Part A.

2. The district will designate one certified staff member for WRES and WRHS to serve as a parent involvement facilitator to coordinate with other school programs, faculty and parents to provide training for staff and parents

promoting and encouraging parental involvement. The building parent facilitator and coordinator will maintain and provide the Parent Center with age-appropriate information regarding child development, general parenting skills, literacy training, using technology, and the importance of school attendance. Parents are offered a variety of training including using technology, anti-bullying, and safe online practices. Sessions are designed at the building level by the need's assessment, feedback, and age appropriateness. Materials providing academic support will also be available. The District will assist schools in the development of parent engagement groups by providing resources, information, and support.

3. The District provides multiple access points for two-way communication with family members of all demographics. Outreach is conducted using email, phone calls, face to face visits during open house and conferences, social media, and/or the Lawrence County School District website and the Remind app. These resources can be used by parents as a source of information for events, activities and district/campus information. The Lawrence County School District Website has additional information and links regarding Curriculum, State Standards, and a Home Access Link (HAC) for parents to view grades and attendance on a regular basis.

4: Coordination

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.

Guiding Questions

- **4.1:** *How does the district coordinate and integrate programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs? Some examples include:*
 - *public preschool programs such as Head Start*
 - *organizations/activities to help students transition to elementary, middle, high, and postsecondary schools or careers*
 - *wraparound services that allow families to send their children to school ready and able to focus on learning*

[ESSA § 1116(e)(4)]

The LCSD will develop relationships with a variety of partners including alumni, elected officials, businesses, and other educational organizations for the purpose of whole child advocacy by: LCSD will encourage and support parents by providing a parent resource center. LCSD will support and promote transition activities from Pre-K through twelfth grade by working collaboratively with programs such as Head Start, First Baptist Day Care, and Arkansas Better Chance at the lower grade levels and community colleges, state universities and technical schools at the upper grade levels. Lea Andra Foster, WRES Principal, and Cameron Priest, WRES Counselor, will be responsible for transitions at the Pre-K level and Jacob Kersey, WRHS Principal, will be responsible for transitions at the secondary level. Our district has a Parent Resource Center that parents can access. The Parent Center has a library of parent resource materials and teachers can give prescriptions to parents to be filled by the parent center staff to reinforce classroom lessons/ activities.

Coordinating supports through a variety of partners including health, social service, law enforcement, non-profit, civic, and faith organizations. LCSD works collaboratively with counselors from mental health, local law enforcement officials, Kiwanis, Key Club, Senior Citizens Centers, WRHS Alumni, Mayor Snapp, and several local churches. We also have a Food Backpack program, Clothing Closet, Hygiene Products, Christmas Adopt a Child, and School Supplies (Stuff the Bus).

Engaging in workforce development, internships, and community service through business and industry partnerships...WRHS partners with Arkansas CTE and Black River Technical College to provide workforce readiness opportunities, internships and industry certifications. BRTC is now offering "a grow your own Teachers" Teacher Residency Program for LCSD Juniors and Senior. WRHS conducts an annual career fair where students are exposed to information and opportunities with local businesses, colleges, industries, and the military. Debbie Findley (WRHS Counselor) and Abby Tyler (Career Coach) assures that students also have opportunities to participate in career exploration and college visits throughout the school year. We also have a Food Backpack program, Clothing Closet, Hygiene Products, Christmas Adopt a Child, and School Supplies (Stuff the Bus) that allow children to be ready for school and able to focus on learning.

5: Evaluation and Reservation

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.

Guiding Questions

- **5.1:** *How does the LEA review and approve the Engagement Plan for each school?*
 - *Describe the process used to ensure each school plan is in full compliance with applicable codes.*
[ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 4.03]
- **5.2:** *What process does the LEA utilize to conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Engagement Program?*
 - *Who is responsible?*
 - *When will it be conducted?*
 - *How will parent input be solicited?*
 - *How will it be disseminated?*
 - *Ensure the evaluation of the Engagement Program in Title I schools includes:*
 - *barriers to greater participation by parents (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 needs of parents and family members to assist with their children's learning, including engaging with school personnel and teachers*
 - *strategies to support successful school and family interactions*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(D)(i-iii); A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(9)]
- **5.3:** *How does the LEA use the findings from the evaluation to develop strategies for more effective engagement and to revise, if necessary, parent and family engagement policies in order to improve the academic quality of all schools?*
 - *How will the findings of the evaluation be shared with families and the community?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(2)(E)]
- **5.4:** *If The LEA is required to set aside funds for parent and family engagement (as part of receiving a Title I, Part A allocation greater than \$500,000),*
 - *How is the LEA spending those funds?*
 - *How is the LEA determining the priority of how funds are spent?*
 - *Who is involved in determining that?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(A)]
- **5.5:** *How does the LEA/school provide opportunities for parents and family members to be involved in providing input into how the funds are used? How will the district share the budget for engagement activities and programs with parents and family members?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(B); ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(C); ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(D)(i-v)]

1. The district will conduct an annual review of the Parental Engagement policies to examine their effect on promoting higher student achievement. This will be done by a committee consisting of parents and school staff. As part of this evaluation, a report will be generated that lists the different activities offered during the year. The committee will determine how beneficial those activities were to parents and the program. The committee will approve the Engagement Plan. The Parent Engagement policies will be part of the District's Title I plan and distributed to the district's parents and community through student handbooks and the district website by August 1st.

2. Parents will be surveyed annually in August, including questions to identify barriers such as economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background that keep parents from being involved in their child's education. Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in the development of the evaluation procedures, including the analysis of data collected during parent/teacher conferences, other meetings and events, and/or online. Procedures will be followed for collecting parent participation documentation through sign-in sheets, minutes, and agendas for workshops, meetings, and/or conferences during the school year. The district plan will be reviewed and updated by August 1 to identify not only

barriers but also the needs of parents and families to assist with the learning of the child(ren) and strategies to support successful school and family interactions in order to improve the academic quality of the schools. Dyan Heard (Parent Center Facilitator) and Lindsey Romine (Parent Center Coordinator) will ensure the completion of this activity.

3. Using findings from the evaluation process, the LCSD will make recommendations to each participating school for parental engagement policy revisions and provide suggestions for designing evidence-based strategies for school improvement, as they relate to parental engagement. Such findings and recommendations from the evaluation process will be shared with families through revised parent-friendly school engagement plans and during the annual Title I meeting each September.

4. LCSD does not receive a Title I, Part A allocation greater than \$500,000 and is not required to include a description of its reservation of funds; however, the district still values parental input regarding how funds are spent.

5. LCSD and WRES will provides opportunities for the parents to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures through meetings and conferences, including analysis of data collected. The LCSD will conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the Parental Engagement Plan thereby improving the academic quality of the school. Dyan Heard and Lindsey Romine will be responsible for this action.

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