

# Lawrence County School District Family Engagement Plan 2022-2023

## 1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

The Lawrence County School District will foster effective parental engagement strategies and support partnerships among school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement by:

- Developing and disseminating a district parental engagement policy that establishes objectives for meaningful involvement and reflects the specific needs of students and families...The District Parent Engagement Plan will be developed jointly with parents and filed with the Department of Education by August 1st. The plan will be made available to families on the Lawrence County School District's website by August 1st. A parent-friendly copy will also be included on the website and in the student handbooks that are provided to all students and require acknowledgment of receipt by signature. The district will ensure adequate representation of parents and families in the development of this plan and will also incorporate the family engagement plan into the schoolwide plan. Comments from parents who deem the schoolwide plan unsatisfactory will be submitted to the State.
- Conducting an annual meeting in the spring to update policy for next year's Title I, Part A program... 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 2022-2023 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. The 2022-2023 annual Title I meeting will be conducted by Terry Belcher, Superintendent.
- Coordinating parental engagement activities with those of other programs... Lawrence County School District schools will support and promote transition activities from Pre-K through twelfth grade by working collaboratively with programs such as Head Start, First Baptist Preschool, and Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) at the lower grade levels and community colleges, state universities and technical schools at the upper grade levels. Lea Andra Foster, WRES principal, will be responsible transitions at the Pre-K level and Jacob Kersey, WRHS principal, will be responsible for transitions at the high school level.

- Establishing a parental engagement contact person at each of the Title I, Part A schools... Lindsey Romine will serve as the District Parent Engagement Coordinator. Dyan Heard will serve as the parent contact for WRES and LCSD.
- Developing a district parental engagement committee to create a parental engagement policy and implement parental engagement activities as well as disseminate information to the community to promote parental engagement...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 faculty 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 assure the completion of this action.
- Conducting an annual review of the effectiveness of the parental engagement policy...The District Parent Engagement Committee will work collaboratively to review the plan and ensure that all barriers to positive parental engagement have been removed and that parents of students at all grade levels are involved in a variety of roles, including decisions making regarding how family engagement funds are used for activities. The plan will be reviewed on Thursday, June 21, 2022, and the meeting will be facilitated by Dyan Heard (district parent facilitator)and Lea Andrea Foster (WRES principal).
- Involving parents in the process of school review and improvement...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. The team will assure that all parents have the opportunity to play an active role in the school improvement process. These opportunities may occur through surveys, parent round-table meetings, school-wide and/or district-wide meetings, etc.
- Ensuring 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. Parents will be provided with all forms of communication, including the Parent Engagement Plan in a language that they can understand. Parents have access to information online, through the school message system, email and communication apps, and also face to face opportunities with teachers and administrators. Our district ESOL coordinator is Brooke Bramlett.

Due to COVID-19 and background check for parent volunteers, our parent involvement has decreased. Our goal for SY 22-23 is to increase our parent involvement.

## **2: Building Staff Capacity**

The LCSD will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental engagement by:

Conducting ongoing site visits to observe parental engagement practices...The district will support the joint-development, implementation and regular evaluation of the parent engagement program at each school. Superintendent Terry Belcher and District Facilitator, Dyan Heard, will assure the completion of this action.

Monitoring each Title I, Part A School (WRES) to ensure that the school performs the following tasks:

- Jointly develop parent and family engagement plans.
- Offer flexible meeting times: Encourage parent participation through innovative scheduling of activities through strategies such as holding meetings at a variety of times and locations, such as morning and evening, in order to maximize the opportunities for parents to participate in school-related activities.
- Provide information to parents about the school's program, include parent information guide (supplement to the student handbook) and obtain signatures acknowledging receipt.
- Jointly develop and use the School-Parent Compact, to ensure to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and form parents can understand by providing translated materials, as needed. The district also helps with forms and translation through the services of Jessica Light (ESOL Instructor), Brooke Bramlett (ESOL Director), and Marta Vargas (the district's bi-lingual volunteer). We are in the process of hiring a staff member 3 days a week to help with forms and translations, also.
- Provide training for parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement, to include training for TAC, if needed, in order to have real-time access to their child's attendance and achievement. Parents will have training opportunities during PTO meetings and through resources made available in the district's parent center.
- Reinforce parenting skills to support the acquisition of academic skills and their application in real-life situations for parent use.
- Encourage parents to visit/volunteer at school by assisting staff in developing volunteer opportunities as well as training staff to encourage and build volunteer efforts. Convene annual school meeting to inform parents of their school's participation in the development of the parental engagement policy and their right to be involved.

Enhancing the awareness and skills of teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and staff in reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents as equal partners:

The district will ensure professional development requirements are met for teachers and administrators by adhering to the minimum state requirement and also by providing annual technical assistance and support in:

- joint development of parent and family engagement plans
- joint development of school-parent compacts
- implementation of effective parent and family activities and input

The district will provide resources that support an effective parental engagement program by annually training teachers, instructional support personnel, administrators, staff and parents in:

- 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

The district will train parent volunteers at least annually...LCSD has opened a parent education and resource center. The Parent Center will offer training, support, and information for parents on many topics including parent volunteering.

The district will place a parent-friendly summary of the District Parent Engagement Plan as a supplement to the student handbook and will require each parent to sign as acknowledgement of receipt. The district will continue to ensure that information is available to parents in a language and format that families can understand.

### **3: Building Parent Capacity**

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. LCSD will provide information to participating parents in such areas as national, state, and local education goals, including parents' rights as defined in Title I, Part A. The Title I contact person for the LCSD is Dyan Heard, Federal Programs Coordinator. LCSD will hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, the requirements of the program and the right of the parents to be involved in planning, reviewing, and improving the school's Title I program. 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 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. The District uses the Remind app which can be used by parents as a source of information for events, activities and district/campus information. Parents will also have access to schools' social media pages. The Lawrence County School District Website has additional information and links regarding

Curriculum, State Standards, and a Home Access Link for parents to view grades and attendance on a regular basis.

#### **4: Coordination**

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:

Coordinating parental engagement activities with those of other educational programs. 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 Penny Sloan, 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.

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.

#### **5: Evaluation and Reservation**

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.

Surveying parents annually, including questions to identify barriers to parental engagement. Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in surveys during parent/teacher conferences, other meetings and events, and/or online. These surveys will help identify and eliminate barriers that keep parents from being involved in their child's education.

Dyan Heard (Parent Center Facilitator) and Lindsey Romine (Parent Center Coordinator) will assure the completion of this activity.

Providing an opportunity for the parents to assist in the development of the evaluation procedures, 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.

Using findings from 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. This will be accomplished in part during the peer review of the schools' engagement plans.

Developing and disseminating an annual parent activity evaluation report to share with parents, staff and the community. 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 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. Notification of the availability of this plan will be made during public meetings, online, and in the local newspaper.