

Southside School District Parental Involvement Policy

The **Southside School District** is dedicated to providing students with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes essential for a productive and purposeful life and to creating an environment so that all learners can achieve success.

The District believes:

- a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire time the child spends in school
- parents and schools must work together as knowledgeable partners.
- communication with parents should be regular, two-way, and meaningful, involving parents in student academic learning and other school activities.
- parents are an integral component of a school's ability to provide for the educational success of students and as appropriate should be included in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of the child.
- engaging parents is essential to improve student achievement.
- schools should foster and support parental involvement.

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The **Southside 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.

The **Southside School District**, consistent with section 1118, will work with 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 **Southside 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 **Southside 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.

If the **Southside School District** 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 **Southside School District** will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one 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.

The **Southside School District**, when appropriate, will utilize resources and materials from the Arkansas State Parental Information and Resource Center and will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Centers in the State.

PART II. HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The **Southside 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:

- Annual Public Meeting: September
- Open House and Orientation: August
- Parent Meetings: Ongoing

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

- Annual Public Meeting: September
- Parent Meetings: October
- Parent Surveys: May

3. The **Southside 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:

- Parental Involvement Coordinator: Ongoing
- Parent Resource Center, Centrally located: Ongoing
- Parent Nights Conducted at School Level: Ongoing

4. The **Southside School District** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs such as: Head Start, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs by:

- Alert Now Phone Notification System
- Southside Parent Resource Center
- Southside Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Program
- Southside Preschool (Combination Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS), Voucher, and Private Pay)
- Southside Early Childhood Special Education
- Southside Head Start
- T.R.A.C.K.S. Before and After School Programs
- Reading Therapy
- Southern Academy, Alternative Learning Environment
- Home Access Center a secure site for viewing a student's grades online
- eTritition Student Cafeteria Information Page including Student Balance, Deposits and Meals

5. The **Southside 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).

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.

- Parent Surveys: August and May
- The Parental Involvement Coordinator conducts surveys to determine interests, needs and effectiveness of the parental involvement activities. Parent comments are used to revise when necessary policies and activities.

1. The **Southside School District** 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 **Southside 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:

Including activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-State and out-of-State, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to ensure success.

- Refrigerator Curriculum, Curriculum Maps: August
- Parent Newsletters: September – May
- Printed Copy of State Standards: As requested
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: October and March
- Parenting Workshops: As requested from needs assessment
- Information Packets for Families: August - September
- District Website a source for resources, news and information: Ongoing
- Tassel Time: Ongoing

B. The **Southside School District** will, with the assistance of its schools, 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:

- Parent Resource Center with materials to help parents work with their child
- Make-N-Take Mondays for parents of students K-4. Materials are also available at the request of parent or teacher, with activities the parent can do at home to help their child master skills.
- Parental Involvement Coordinator for the District
- Parent Facilitators at each school
- School to Home Communication Folders or Agendas

C. The **Southside 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:

- Parent Involvement Professional Development for Teachers and Administrators: 2 Hours in 2014-15 and then every 4th year.
- Volunteer Resource Book

D. The **Southside School District** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, 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:

- Alert Now Phone Notification System

- Southside Parent Resource Center
- Southside Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Program
- Southside Preschool (Combination Arkansas Better Chance for School Success (ABCSS), Voucher, and Private Pay)
- Southside Early Childhood Special Education
- NADC Head Start
- T.R.A.C.K.S. Before and After School Programs
- Participation in Child Find
- Participation in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library[®]
- Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist (KRIC) distributed to parents of preschool age children
- Kindergarten Registration: April
- Kindergarten Tours and Transition Activities: April
- Summer Activity Packets available for preschool to Kindergarten children

E. The **Southside School District** will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- 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:

- Letters sent to parents of participating children in home language.
- Letters written in language all parents can understand.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The **Southside School District**, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities:

- 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, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- 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;
- 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.

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PART IV. ADOPTION

This **Southside School District** 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 the annual public meeting for comments, committee meetings, sign-in sheets, and agendas of parent involvement opportunities.

This policy was adopted by the **Southside School District Board of Education** on September 27, 2013. The school district will distribute a parent friendly summary of this policy to all parents as a supplement to the student handbook and by posting the Southside School District Parental Involvement Policy on the District website.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

September 27, 2013

(Date)