

Arkansas School for the Deaf Family and Community Engagement Plan 2022-2023

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

The 2022-2023 ASD Parent and Family Engagement Committee will develop effective expectations and objectives for parental and family engagement by providing strategies to support partnerships among ASD, parents and families and the community to improve student achievement. It is due August 1st annually. Information will be provided in a language that parents can understand, to the fullest extent possible. ASD demonstrates the following expectations of being committed, collaborative, responsive and respectful to families.

A child's education is a responsibility shared by the Arkansas School for the Deaf and family during the entire time a child attends ASD. ASD staff, parents/guardians, and community members work together collaboratively as knowledgeable partners to support educating all ASD students effectively. Parents/guardians of ASD are diverse in culture, language and needs. Parents are integral components of ASD's ability to provide maximized opportunities for education and personal successes of the children.

- Implement parental and family engagement policy and activities as well as share information to the community to promote parental and family engagement, i.e. ASD website social media and ASD Student Handbook, ASD News Schoology, ASD Carousel, etc.
- Conduct a spring meeting with the ASD Parent Engagement Committee to update policy for the next year's District and School Engagement Plan.
- Coordinate parent and family engagement activities with those of other programs (statewide services, health and wellness, Arkansas School for the Deaf Career Center, ASD athletics)
- Ensure that parents and families of children with disabilities and/or limited English proficiency have the same access as other families including information in a language and form they can understand.
- Complete and submit mandatory reports as mandated by Arkansas and Federal Regulations.
- Assist parents with understanding and engaging in the development of their child's IEP/504 Plan. All ASD Students are on an IEP or 504.
- Provide a parent friendly summary of the parent and family engagement plan online.

- Provide and assist parents with support and opportunities to submit unsatisfactory implementation of plans.
- Annual report to the public in the format of a townhall.
- ASD will file the plan with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education in the Indistar System on or before August 1st annually.

2: Building Staff Capacity

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

ASD will strive to provide options and opportunities for staff to meet parents and families in ways that work best for their needs. ASD will engage in the following:

- Ensure a safe learning environment based on the most current guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health, DESE and state and federal laws.
- Ensure the continuity of teaching and learning by providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum that introduces new learning while utilizing technology to enhance regular classroom instruction.
- Support teachers by providing continued professional development in technology and other curriculum related training, addressing social and emotional needs of students and self. Teachers are required to earn 60 hours of professional development yearly. Teachers must follow state guidelines pertaining to required professional development. Two hours of professional development relating to parent involvement very four years. In addition to this requirement, trainings will be offered by the school to educate staff on the value of parent contributions, communicating and working with parents as equal partners, and implementing parent programs. These trainings will be provided in response to identified staff needs and in collaboration with parent facilitators.
- Provide guidance and support for teachers and other ASD staff, parents and students in the areas of health, safety and social emotional learning.
- All teachers must complete required Science of Reading training.
- Engage ASD school staff, parents, students, and the community. ASD will use the following strategies:
- Provide materials and training not otherwise available to assist parents and families in supporting their child's academic achievement.

- Enhance the awareness and skills of administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, dorm staff in reaching out to, communicating, and working with parents and families as equal partners through annual professional development training and requirement for certification licensure.
- Provide information on post high school learning through the Arkansas School for the Deaf Career Center.
- Provide assistance and guidance for non-ASD schools, Arkansas educational cooperatives, programs, and educators of deaf and hard of hearing students through the ASD Statewide Services Program.
- Notify parents of meetings and events using the ASD Website, Parent Square, Facebook, Instagram, Newsletters, and Flyers.

3: Building Parent Capacity

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

Arkansas School for the Deaf will support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the parent involvement program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of the school, while using to the degree possible the components included within. ASD will organize meaningful training for staff and parents to promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere to parents involved ASD. All certified staff members will participate in professional development, in accordance with State requirements and timelines, which are designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies.

To help parents assist students during their learning processes, Arkansas School for the Deaf will:

- ASD will host monthly Very Important Parents (VIP) meetings.
- A minimum of two Parent-Teacher conferences will be held as well as IEP and other Special Education related meetings throughout the school year. ASD will provide resources for parents to learn about child development, child rearing practices, and academic strategies that are designed to learn about child development, language development (American Sign Language/Spoken English), parenting practices, academic strategies.
- Provide information to participating parents regarding national, state and local education goals.
- Provide information to participating parents regarding their federal and state rights regarding Individual Education Plans and 504 Plans.
- Obtain approval for necessary and reasonable expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities.

- Distribute information regarding the Parent and Family Engagement Summary and Plan through the ASD website. Signatures may be requested during parent engagement activities such as parent/teacher conferences.
- Collaborate with community partnerships to provide incentives to increase parent and family engagement.
- Distribute information through engaging advertisements on the school website and social media regarding parent and family engagement activities.
- ASD will provide quarterly reports of student progress. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled on the calendar and more will be conferred based on student need. Parents will be counseled on what state standards, test scores and child progress means in terms understood by parents and in parents' native language.
- Reasonable parent support requests will be addressed and fully resolved possible.
- Parents will be able to contact principals, teachers and other school staff through Parent Square and email. Staff email information will be provided on the ASD website.
- Offer opportunities for training and volunteer school involvement both online and virtually. ASL classes are offered free to parents/guardians and families. Volunteer training will be provided annually.
- Provide parents with ideas and strategies for parents to implement with their children at home.
- Encourage parents to provide positive feedback and suggestions for growth.

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.

To help parents assist students during their learning processes, Arkansas School for the Deaf will coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, parental involvement programs, such as the VIP meetings. Other support can be provided in parent resource centers to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of the child. the development of and participation in family-oriented community based physical activity and mental health programs.

- Ensure a safe learning environment based on the most current guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health, DESE and state and federal laws.
- Ensure the continuity of teaching and learning by providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum that introduces new learning while utilizing technology to enhance regular classroom instruction.

- Support teachers by providing continued professional development in technology and other curriculum related training, addressing social and emotional needs of students and self.
- Provide guidance and support for teachers and other ASD staff, parents and students in the areas of health, safety and social emotional learning.
- Engage ASD school staff, parents, students, and the community. ASD will use the following strategies:
 - ASD Statewide services will work with parents and other programs that serve deaf/hard of hearing programs to provide resources, support, materials and training not otherwise available to assist parents and families in supporting their child's academic achievement.
 - Enhance the awareness and skills of administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, dorm staff in reaching out to, communicating, and working with parents and families as equal partners through annual professional development training and requirement for certification licensure.
 - Provide information on post high school learning through the Arkansas School for the Deaf Career Center.
 - Provide assistance and guidance for non-ASD schools, Arkansas educational cooperatives, programs, and educators of deaf and hard of hearing students through the ASD Statewide Services Program.
 - Collaborate with Community Organizations such as Arkansas Association for the Deaf, ASD Alumni Association, Little Rock Black Deaf Association to provide support to parents, students, staff and other stakeholders.
 - Monitor and ensure ASD does the following:
 - Updates the parent and family engagement plan annually.
 - Offers flexible meetings quarterly.
 - Provide information to parents about ASD's school program.
 - Ensure parents, families, students, teachers and administrators representing each department work collaboratively to improve the academic achievement of the student.
 - Support parents and families in establishing high expectations for their child's performance, motivating students to achieve, and monitoring their child's progress.
 - Involve parents in committees to assist in decision-making.
 - Offer stakeholders meaningful opportunities and provide any necessary information, screening and/or training as required for volunteer placement.
 - Reinforce parenting skills to support academic skills in real life situations.
 - Encourage parent and family participation through innovative scheduling of activities through strategies such as holding meetings at a variety of times, various venues and

virtually to maximize opportunities for parents and families to participate in school-related activities.

- Conduct annual school meetings to inform parents and families of their school's parent and school engagement plans and encourage involvement.
- Provide annual training for volunteers and ensure any new volunteers receive training.
- Ensure a family friendly summary of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan is included in the ASD Student Handbook and signatures reflect receipt.
- Ensure information is provided in a language parents and families can understand

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.

- ASD will monitor and ensure ASD completes the following:
- Surveys parents biannually.
- Provides a report to the public presented by the ASD Superintendent in the fall of 2022. State required data will be presented. Parents and the community are offered opportunities to provide input and feedback.
- Updates the parent and family engagement plan annually.
- Offers Very Important Parent meetings monthly. KaAnn Varner will coordinate VIP meetings. Title I information will be presented in the October meeting. Opportunities for feedback will be provided in the form of surveys.
- Provide information to parents about ASD's school program.
- Ensure parents, families, students, teachers and administrators representing each department work collaboratively to improve the academic achievement of the student.
- Support parents and families in establishing high expectations for their child's performance, motivating students to achieve, and monitoring their child's progress.
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