

Van Buren School District Parental Involvement Policy

The District will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and we expect schools to carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. Our goals are:

- A. To educate parents on the integral role they play in assisting their child's education;
- B. To encourage parents to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- C. To communicate with parents as 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; and
- D. To provide parents with opportunities, skill and tools to help them engage in meaningful parent-child learning activities. to assist in the education.

The Van Buren 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.
- Consistent with Section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies (plans) 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 school district will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its District ACSIP plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.
- 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.

- If the 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 Arkansas State Department of Education (ADE).
 - The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions 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 inform parents and parental organizations of the existence and purpose of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) in conjunction with the Center for Effective Parenting, parental information and resources available on the ADE website..
1. The Van Buren 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:
 - District Parent Involvement Meetings will be held during the school year to establish in collaboration with parents a Parental Involvement Plan including programs and practices that enhance parental involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.(Act 307)
 - Encourage communication with parents by having each school prepare an informational packet to be distributed annually to the parent of each child in the school, appropriate for the age and grade of the child.(Act 307)
 - Encourage the schools to plan and engage in other activities determined by the school to be beneficial to encourage communication with parents.(Act 307)
 2. The Van Buren School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Parents will serve on the District ACSIP Leadership Committee which will review the District ACSIP Plan that includes programs and practices that enhance parental involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.
 3. The Van Buren 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:
 - The District and schools will jointly develop a parent involvement activity checklist which will be used annually to plan, coordinate, guide and support and monitor schools in implementation of the parent involvement plans.
 4. The Van Buren School District will build capacity of school staff and parents to create strong parental involvement programs, in order to ensure effective involvement

- A. The 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:
1. the state's academic content standards,
 2. the state's student academic achievement standards,
 3. the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 4. the requirements of Title I, Part A,
 5. how to monitor their child's progress; and
 6. how to work with educators.

The District will ensure the schools:

- Conduct annual Open House meetings, Title I Annual Report to the Public Meeting;
 - Two Parent/Teacher Conferences;
 - Workshops for parents on academic standards, academic assessments, how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities at home, and reporting student progress to parents; and
 - CAP Conferences which inform parents of secondary students about how to be involved in decisions.
- B. The District will ensure the 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. The District will:
- Provide a Parent Center at each school (AR Act 307);
 - Ensure school principals designate a certified staff member receiving supplemental pay for the assigned duties to serve as a Parent Facilitator (AR Act 307); and
 - Ensure schools purchase parental books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting to be placed in the Parent Center and allowing parents the opportunity to borrow the materials for review (AR Act 307).
- C. The 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. The District will ensure each school will:

- Provide to all parents a volunteer resource book and provide training annually for volunteers who assist in an instructional program for parents(AR Act 307);
- Provide no fewer than two (2) hours of parental involvement professional development opportunities for teachers which educates teachers and staff in the importance of effective communication, value, and utility of contributions of parents(AR Act 307);
- Provide no fewer than three (3) hours of parental involvement professional development opportunities for school administrators which educates administrators in the importance of effective communication, value, and utility of contributions of parents(AR Act 307);
- Enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association or organization that will foster parental and community involvement within the school. (AR Act 307);

D. The 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. The District will ensure each school will:

- Develop and distribute annually a school student handbook including an informational packet to the parent of each child in the school, appropriate for the age and grade of the child, describing:
 - i. The school's parental involvement program;
 - ii. The recommended role of the parent, student, teacher, and school;
 - iii. Ways for the parent to become involved in the school and his or her child's education;
 - iv. A survey for the parent regarding his or her interests concerning volunteering at the school;
 - v. Activities planned throughout the school year to encourage parental involvement; and
 - vi. A system to allow the parents and teachers to communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner with the child's teacher and the school principal.

5. The Van Buren 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, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents

as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and state-operated preschool programs.

- The District will communicate through Parent Involvement Meetings with staff from these programs and invite them to visit schools for appropriate transition activities.
6. The Van Buren 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.
- District administrators and school principals will be responsible for conducting an annual survey of all parents to identify parent involvement needs and barriers to parent involvement.
 - At Parent Involvement Meetings, parents will assist in reviewing the survey results and planning the revisions of the Parental Involvement Policy (Plan).
7. The school district will consider other appropriate activities under this part (Section 1118(a)(2) of ESEA) that support parental involvement upon request.
- A district administrator will be responsible for reviewing these requests as needed.

This district-wide 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 _____.

This policy will be presented for adoption by the Van Buren School Board on *[mm/dd/yy]*. After adoption the school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.

Signature of Authorized Official

Date