



Northside Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

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Where little paws make BIG impressions...

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN FOR NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY

Parental Involvement Plan Overview

Northside Elementary recognizes the necessity and value of a strong home/school connection. Families, administrators, teachers, and support staff must work together as a team to support high standards for all students. Our Parent Involvement Plan is comprehensive and coordinated in nature. The program involves parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles.

The Northside Parental Involvement Plan includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- an annual meeting at a convenient time to inform parents of the school's involvement in Title I, Part A programs and explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in those programs
- the involvement of parents in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the school-wide program plan
- meetings offered at flexible times such as in the morning or the evening;
- information shared in a timely manner and to the extent possible in a language the family can understand concerning
 - a. curriculum descriptions and explanation
 - b. the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress
 - c. the proficiency levels students are expected to meet
- opportunities for regular meetings at which parents can suggest and participate in the decisions relating to their child's education

In order to allow all parents including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children the full opportunity to participate in their child's education, Northside will:

- to the extent possible-provide information in a language and format that parents understand
- provide assistance to parents of children served by the school in understanding topics such as:
 - state's academic content standards
 - state academic achievement standards
 - requirements of Title 1
 - how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child
 - how to monitor their child's progress
- provide materials and training to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement
- educate staff

- value and importance of parent contributions
- ways in which to communicate more effectively with parents
- how to build the appropriate ties between parents and the school
- coordinate and integrate-to the extent possible-parental involvement programs and activities with groups such as, but not limited to, Head Start, Rogers Pre-School Programs, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request

The Parental Involvement Plan is made available to parents and local community members at the beginning of each school year, during the enrollment process, or anytime upon request. The Northside Parental Involvement Plan is revisited in the spring of each school year by a committee of parents, administrators, teachers, and support staff. Should the Parental Involvement Plan be unsatisfactory to parents, parents have the opportunity to submit any comments to the school, the Northside Parent Involvement Committee, and school surveys. To the extent possible, responses to concerns and comments will be addressed as quickly as possible.

Northside Parental Involvement Goals

Northside Elementary School welcomes parents to become a partner in their child's education. The staff of Northside Elementary believes that only by working together can we help our students achieve the high academic standards set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education.

The goals of Northside Parental Involvement Plan are:

- to increase involvement of parents and community members
- to increase parental awareness of grade-level expectations
- to foster parents' responsibility and support for their child's learning including, but not limited to, a Title I Parent/Guardian Involvement Compact
- to provide frequent communication with parents on their child's progress
- to provide opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate
- to provide assistance to parents in such areas as parenting skills homework, communication with teachers, etc.
- to provide flexible conference times to accommodate working parents
- to inform parents of available community resources

With these goals in mind, Northside Elementary developed a Parental Involvement Plan that outlines ways in which parents are encouraged to share the responsibility for their child's education. The Parental Involvement Plan meets the requirements as set forth in Act 307 of 2007 and Act 397 of 2009.

Parent Involvement Committee

One requirement of the Parental Involvement Plan is to provide parents the opportunity to participate in all aspects of the Parent Involvement Plan. In the Rogers School District, parents are involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs both at the district and school building level. Northside provides all parents the opportunity to participate in Parent Surveys taken throughout the school year. These surveys allow the Northside Parent Involvement Committee to gain important insight into the issues that Northside Elementary parents would like to see addressed within the Parent Involvement Plan. Because Northside Elementary School understands that language issues may be a barrier to parent involvement, surveys are available in both English and Spanish.

Parents volunteer to serve on the Parent Involvement Committee. The committee is a representation of the school's population. Northside Elementary School understands that language issues may be a barrier to parent involvement; therefore, translators are available at meetings. Each fall, the Northside Parent Involvement Committee revisits the current plan and addresses any concerns and budget decisions. In the spring, the Northside Parent Involvement Committee revisits the current plan and any concerns that the survey data revealed. The Committee revises the Parent involvement Plan to meet the needs of the school. The revised Northside Parental Involvement Plan is then prepared for distribution in each child's Informational Packet in the fall of the following school year. The Northside Parent Involvement Plan is available throughout the year, at the time of registration, or at any time upon request. Because Northside Elementary School understands that language issues may be a barrier to parent involvement, the Northside Parent Involvement Plan is available in both English and Spanish.

Annual Title 1 Meeting

Another requirement of the Parental Involvement Plan is that each school hold an annual meeting for parents. The Northside Annual Title 1 Meeting, Open House, is held in the fall of each school year. The school principal and PTO President speak during the welcoming session. Teacher sessions allow teachers the opportunity to present parent information. The topics of the Title I Annual Meeting include, but are not limited to, the following:

(As required by Act 307 of 2007)

- what students will be learning (*Quarterly Expectations, Standards Based Report Card, Power Standards*)
- how students will be assessed both at the state and local level
- what parents should expect for their child's education
- ways parents can assist in their child's education

(As required by Act 397 of 2009)

- provide instruction on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment including but not limited to:
 - monthly parent newsletters with tips for parents
 - classroom newsletters
 - PTO newsletters
 - Math and Literacy Nights
 - Family Resource Center
 - Websites

(As required by Federal guidelines)

- Hold a school-wide Title I meeting at Northside to inform parents:
 - Title I information:
 - the purpose
 - an overview
 - Parent Rights
 - Parent/School Compact
 - Parent Involvement Committee
 - Use of Parent Involvement Funds
- School Improvement Status
 - Current Test Results
 - Annual Progress Status
- strategies for parents to monitor
 - a child's progress (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
 - standards

- academic assessments
 - Arkansas Department of Education Website
 - Rogers School District Website
 - Center for Effective Parenting
- materials and training provided as needed to assist parents to work with their children to improve academic achievement
- opportunities for parent involvement
 - homeroom parent
 - field trips
 - special projects
 - PTO
 - volunteer sign up

(As required by Northside)

- Class Procedures
 - homework
 - testing
 - discipline
- other pertinent information
- identify times during the day you are available for conferences or another form of two way communication

Parent-School Communication

Communication with parents is another requirement of the Parental Involvement Plan. The Northside Parent Involvement Committee and Northside Elementary Staff believe that in order for parent/teacher communication to be beneficial it should be open, two-way, and to the extent possible, in a language and format that the parent can understand. It is believed that only through effective communication can each child's success be assured. Parents are encouraged to call the school to speak with their child's teacher should they have any questions or concerns. Parents are also welcome to set up a time for a conference at which teachers can give their undivided attention to the parent's concerns and questions. Phone and e-mail contact information is located at the back of the Parental Involvement Plan.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are offered twice during each school year. These conferences are important times for teacher and parents to share the responsibility to make decisions concerning each child's education. During these conferences, teachers will share information concerning each child's progress towards meeting the state's high academic standards. Assessments to measure progress and the level at which proficiency is expected will also be shared during this meeting. Academic Improvement Plans will be addressed as needed. These conferences are offered at flexible times in order to accommodate as many parents as possible.

Other forms of communication available to Northside parents include but are not limited to:

- classroom Newsletters
- website
- Northside Parent Involvement Plan
- Northside Information Kit
- announcements
- marquee
- planners/Tuesday folders
- monthly parent newsletters
- Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter

Opportunities for Parent Involvement

Offering parents the opportunity to become a partner in their child's education is a required element of Parental Involvement Plans. Parents are encouraged to become involved in our school and their child's education by taking part in a variety of opportunities. Many activities are

planned throughout the school year to encourage parental involvement. These can be found on the school calendar, in monthly PTA newsletters, and special announcement fliers. Some of these activities include:

- Kindergarten Parent Orientation
- Quarterly Proud Panther Assemblies
- Parent Teacher Association activities
- Field trips
- Reading to and sharing career experiences in the classrooms
- Math, Literacy and/or STEM Nights

If a parent is unable to attend some of these school events, there are many ways in which they can still be actively involved in their child's education. Examples of this include:

- reading to your child
- teaching moral values
- monitoring what is watched on television
- helping with homework
- assisting teachers by helping with tasks that can be completed at home such as cutting or compiling

Parent Resources and Training

All parents are also encouraged to be aware of the many resources available to their help child. One such resource is the Internet. Parents might want to check out these valuable websites:

- Rogers Public School's Main Website: www.rogersschools.net
- Northside Elementary School's Main Website: www.rogersschools.net
- Arkansas Department of Education: www.arkansased.org
- Arkansas State Parent Information and Resource Center: www.parenting-ed.org
- Parent Teacher Association: www.pta.org

Another resource available to parents is the NORTHSIDE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER and Parent Center Pinterest Board(@NSParentCenter). We have suggestions for activities to assist parents in working with their child at home. We also have a selection of books and videos available to be checked out. Our parent facilitator, Tracy Yocham, will be available to help you in any way necessary. You are welcome to contact her at the school by calling 479.631.3650 or email at tracy.yocam@rpsar.net.

Parent Training Nights are another means by which parents can be active in their child's education. These trainings are offered by a variety of resources including:

- Northside Elementary School
 - Parent Nights with a focus on literacy/math/science
 - Open House
 - Orientations
- Rogers School District
 - REACH Department (Gifted Education)
 - English as a Second Language Department
 - Special Education Department
- Community Groups
 - Center for Effective Parenting
 - Local Support Groups
 - Northwest Arkansas Community College

Staff Professional Development

An important requirement of the Northside Parental Involvement Plan includes the component of continued staff development in the area of parent involvement. Annual training will be held with topics such as ways to communicate effectively with parents, methods by which parents can become more involved in the school, and how to bridge the home-school connection. It is the goal of the Northside Parent Involvement Committee for professional development to provide staff with the necessary skills needed to partner with all parents in order to assure each child's academic success.

The Northside School-Parent Compact

The staff of Northside Elementary School believes that high student academic achievement is a shared responsibility of our staff as well as parents of our students. In order to show that shared responsibility, Northside Elementary School in conjunction with the Northside Parent/Teacher Organization consisting of parents of students participating in the Title 1 program developed a School-Parent Compact that is reviewed annually. This Compact identifies the activities of the parents, entire school staff, and the students of Northside Elementary School to develop a partnership to help our students achieve the state's high academic standards. Because Northside Elementary School understands that language issues may be a barrier to parent involvement, the Northside Parent School Compact is available in both English and Spanish.

The Northside Elementary School-Parent Compact describes

- the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment that supports students in our school to meet the state's academic achievement standards;
- how parents can be responsible for supporting their child's learning;
- the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an on-going basis through
 - parent-teacher conferences two times a year
 - student progress reports to parents
 - reasonable access to staff
 - opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class
 - observation of classroom activities

It is our goal to engage schools and parents as full-time partners in the education of young people in a meaningful and productive way. This year we will be implementing a Parent-School Compact so that each participant's role is clearly defined. The mutual responsibilities of parents and schools are to support children in attaining high standards.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to review the Parent-School Compact information. Your willingness to participate in this compact will determine the growth of your child's educational experience. Your signature, along with your child's signature, and date are required on this form. Please return this to your child's teacher.

Feel free to conference with your child's teacher or the school principal concerning the compact. We want to work with you in supporting your child's educational growth and success.