

School Parent & Family Engagement Plan

Old Wire Road Elementary School

3001 S. Old Wire Road
Rogers, AR 72758



Roles of Parents, Students, Teachers, & School

The role of parents, students, teachers, and the school is to work collectively by

Working together to be successful in their respective roles

- Developing a relationship of mutual trust and respect that transcends cultural, social and language barriers
- Expanding opportunities for interaction and shared decision making
- Promoting lifelong learning as a key to success

Parents may become involved in the school and their child's education by taking part in a variety of opportunities. Examples of these are: in School –volunteering at the school, attending parent/teacher conferences, student's performances, and Parents Make a Difference nights, where parents will be provided instruction on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment. At Home- reading to children, monitoring what is watched on television, helping with homework, read and respond to communications from the school, and assisting teachers by helping with tasks that can be done at home.

Activities planned throughout the school year to encourage parental involvement can be found on the school calendar and in monthly newsletters. Some of Old Wire's activities include: Kindergarten parent orientation, recognition assemblies, Parent Teacher Organization activities, field trips, reading to and sharing career experiences in the classrooms, reading to students in the common area before school starts each day, and Science /Literacy Nights.

Communication

There are many ways that allow parents to communicate in a regular, two-way and meaningful manner. Some of which are the following:

- Student planners in 5th grade and Tuesday folders
- parent/teacher conferences two times a year and as requested by parent or teacher
- phone calls
- emails
- Remind 101 and Class Dojo apps

Benefits of parental involvement include, but are not limited to the following:

- students flourish
- schools are strengthened
- student attendance and behavior is better
- students receive a higher quality education
- a safer, more disciplined learning environment is created

Foreword

Positive parent involvement is essential to student achievement

Research shows that when families are involved in a child's education, test scores are higher, attendance is better and students have a more positive attitude.

Facts

Families can make a significant difference in children's learning and academic success. The following are some important facts:

- Students spend approximately 90% of their time from birth to age 18 outside of school.
- When families are involved in schools, reading test scores are higher.
- If a family values education and encourages learning, they can raise successful learners, regardless of their income level.

Old Wire Road Elementary School believes that engaging parents/guardians in their children’s education is essential to improving student achievement and that the school should foster and support actual parent/guardian involvement in all of its educational endeavors.

Old Wire Road Elementary School Advisory Committee

Kasey Benson, Parent Involvement Coordinator/Counselor
 Shana Maxey, Principal
 Sarah Vanston, Assistant Principal
 Kacee Crigler, Social Worker
 Nicole Blood, Media Specialist
 Carmen Ellis, Parent / Teacher
 Kathy Welsh, Teacher
 Beatriz Delgado, Parent
 Old Wire Business Partner – Crossland Construction
 Mary Bottorff, Teacher
 Andrea Segal, Parent / Teacher
 Bailey Nichols, Teacher
 Howard Austin, Parent / Teacher
 Deborah Goff, Literacy Facilitator

Title I Parental Involvement Plan for Old Wire Road Elementary School

The objective of the Old Wire Elementary Title I Program is to provide students with the tools enhance the effectiveness of their education.

Old Wire Road Elementary is a school-wide Title I school. Title I is the largest federal assistance program for our nation’s schools. Old Wire Road 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.

The goals of parental involvement 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
- 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 inform parents of available community resources
- To provide flexible conference times to accommodate working parents

Old Wire's Parent Involvement Program is comprehensive and coordinated in nature. The program involves parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The Parent Involvement Program includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful.
- Responsible parenting is supported and promoted.
- Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- Parents are welcome in the school and their support and assistance are sought.
- Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
- Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.

Old Wire personnel will engage in professional development opportunities to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. Administration recognizes the importance of setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

Engaging parents is essential to improved student achievement. Old Wire Road Elementary shall foster and support active parent involvement. For more specific information concerning parental involvement, contact the school at 631-3510 and request to speak to our parent facilitator, Carol Lester.

The Title I Parental/Guardian Involvement Compact will be developed and reviewed with each parent at the beginning of every school year. It will list the responsibilities of both the school and the parents. On-going communication between teachers and parents will be done through monthly school newsletters, teacher newsletters, progress reports, quarterly report cards, Tuesday folders, daily planners, parent/teacher conferences, and the school web page.

Old Wire Road Elementary School will hold an annual meeting at flexible times to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs. During this meeting, they will:

- Explain Title I, Part A requirements and the rights of the parents to be involved in those programs
- Discuss student achievement and assessment, district and building goals, progress toward meeting goals, school programming, and accreditation.
- Explain that Old Wire funds may be used to provide transportation, child care, or home visits as the services relate to parent involvement.

Old Wire teachers will present information on the following aspects of ACT 307 of 2007:

- What students will be learning (Quarterly Expectations, standards-based report card)
- How the students will be assessed (state and local)
- What the parents should expect for their child's education

- Ways the parent can assist and make a difference in his or her education
- Advise parents of times during the day the teacher is available for conferences and two way communication

Instruction will be provided to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment. Monthly newsletter, classroom newsletters, Parents as Partners nights, and Kindergarten Readiness Transition meeting/workshop topics may include but are not limited to: reading with their child, math, science, technology, health and wellness – including nutritional facts & allergies, attendance, how to prepare for state testing, etc. Additional resources are available at the Parent Center and additional information will be presented as the need arises.

Information will be provided to parents regularly so they can monitor the progress of their children and work with educators to improve achievement.

- Grades 1, 2 & 3
 - Students in first, second and third grade who scored below proficient on the Literacy portion of the MAPS assessment in the previous school year will have an Intensive Reading Intervention Plan (IRI) as required by the Arkansas State Department.

Parents will serve on the ACSIP committee. A school-wide survey will be conducted annually and the information gathered will be considered in any changes for the new school year. Old Wire's parent involvement plan will be incorporated into our annual ACSIP.

Parents will be involved in an organized, ongoing, and timely way 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 plan.

Old Wire will provide opportunities, if requested by parents, for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. Old Wire will respond to any such suggestions, as soon as, practically possible. If the school-wide plan is unsatisfactory to the parents of participating children, Old Wire will submit parent comments when the plan is made available to the district.

Old Wire Road Elementary has a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The purpose of this organization is for parents, teachers and administration to work together to make our school the best it can be each year. The PTO executive board will meet monthly throughout the school year and parents are encouraged to attend. Special evening programs for families have been planned to include the sharing of the executive board's ideas to our school community for their input and help.

Parents must enter the office, check in, and receive a visitor's tag when planning to visit the building. If a parent needs to see his/her child during school hours, the student will be called to the office. This is for the security of our building. If you wish to have a conference with your child's teacher, please call ahead to make an appointment. Teachers' schedules do not allow time for drop-in conferences.

If parents have a concern, they are asked to speak with the teacher where they will define the problem and work together to develop solutions. Together the issue should be resolved or a plan of action developed to deal with the concern. If the concern continues after those steps have been taken, please make an appointment with Old Wire administration.

In order to carry out Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, Old Wire will provide opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. This includes providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practical, in a language parents understand. Old Wire will provide the following information:

- State academic content standards and achievement standards (informed through Quarterly Expectations, AIPs, teacher and school newsletters, parent/teacher conferences, progress reports, and report cards)
- State and local assessments (informed through, but not limited to, principal's report to the public, monthly school newsletter, individual student state reports, parent/teacher conferences)
- Requirements of Title I
- How to monitor child's progress and work with educators to improve achievement
- Provide materials and training to help parents work with the child to improve achievement (through school newsletter, ESOL district newsletter, Kindergarten Readiness Workshop, and Parent Nights)
- Educate teachers, personnel, principals with the assistance of parents, in the value of contributions of parents. Topics to address are:
 - 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
- Ensure information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are sent to the parent in a language they can understand (written communication is sent home in English/Spanish, parent meetings and conferences have interpreters available)
 - Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities

Volunteers

Parents will be encouraged to take an active role by volunteering. Sign-up sheets will be provided during "Meet the Teacher Night" and sent home in Tuesday folders at the beginning of the school year.

Across the nation, mothers, fathers, grandparents, guardians, and community helpers are finding that their involvement as school volunteers is having a positive influence on student achievement. We ask that you please follow these guidelines:

- Plan ahead with the teacher that you will be assisting to know when is the best time to visit the classroom.
- Please notify the school if you are unable to attend an event for which you are scheduled to assist
- Remember to check in with the office upon your arrival and receive a visitor's pass.
- Sign out in the office when you leave.

- Don't forget to log your volunteer hours in the volunteer notebook. Ask a member of the office staff for assistance.

The district provides annual trainings for parent volunteers who assist in an instructional program. Please contact the Department of Human Resources for dates.

Volunteers can make a difference!

Ways to volunteer:

- Home-room support
- Read or tell stories
- Drill flash cards
- Make instructional materials
- Pop popcorn
- Help with book fairs, special school events, and broadcasting
- Share information about your business
- Listen to children read
- Provide individual help
- Reproduce materials
- Work in the library
- Sit with the classroom while the teacher attends a conference
- Prepare Tuesday folders to go home
- Car Duty
- Read to students from 7:15-7:30 in the commons area

There are many, many other ways that volunteers can help. We are open to your suggestions and hope that you will consider giving your time to enrich our educational program.

We appreciate your support!

Evaluation

An assessment of the effectiveness of the Old Wire Road Elementary School Title I Parental Involvement Policy will be conducted throughout the year with the involvement of parents. Measures will include:

- Family Fun Nights (Family Reading and Math Nights) parent evaluations
- Attendance at the Family Fun Nights and other parent involvement activities
- Annual program evaluation to be completed at spring Title I Parent Advisory Council Meeting
- Survey information: School Climate survey and Parent Interest survey

Professional Staff Development

Old Wire Road Elementary School will design professional development opportunities for teachers to include no less than 2 hours of professional development every four years, beginning in the 2018-2019

school year, which are designed to enhance teacher understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. The two hours may be included in the required sixty hours of professional development.

Old Wire administrators will participate in a minimum of 2 hours of professional development opportunities which are designed to enhance the understanding of:

- Effective parent involvement strategies
- The importance of administrative leadership in setting expectation and creating a climate conducive to parent participation.

Parental Information and Resource Centers

The Center for Effective Parenting serves as the Arkansas State Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC) and was established to provide training, information, and support to parents and individuals who work with parents, LEAs, and schools receiving Title I assistance.

- Information for the Arkansas State PIRC can be found at:
 - <http://www.parenting-ed.org>
- Other helpful resources:
 - Parental Involvement Title I, Part A Non Regulatory Guidance
 - <http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/parentinguid>
 - Toolkit for parental involvement
 - <http://www.sedl.org/connections/toolkit>

Old Wire Road Elementary has instructional materials in the resource center designed to assist parents in working with their child at home. We also have a large selection of informational materials available to parents for check out. Please visit our Parent Resource Center.

Monitoring of Parental Involvement Plan

- The parental involvement plan shall be reviewed annually.
- The parental involvement plan shall be in compliance with the law.

Family Friendly Parent Involvement Plan

Old Wire recognizes that parents are their children's first teachers and that parents educators throughout their child's lives. More than thirty years of research show that academic success and high self esteem are closely related to parent involvement in prekindergarten through high school. We also believe that the family and the community are the stronger educational system and improve the quality of life for the students, their families and the entire community. Old Wire makes the commitment to establish programs and practices that create a climate of mutual trust and respect that support substantive parent involvement.



Old Wire Elementary jointly developed, with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A services, the following school Parental Involvement Policy that describes how the school will carry out parental involvement requirements, including the development of a school-parent compact. Old Wire's written parental involvement policy is made available to parents and the local community.

Important components of the plan include:

Roles of Parents, Students, Teachers, & School

Communication

Benefits of parental involvement

Goals of parental involvement

Annual meetings

Committees

Volunteer Information

Evaluation Information

Professional Development for Staff

Parental Resource Center

Monitoring of Parental Involvement Plan