

# Camden Fairview District Parental Involvement Policy

School Year: 2016-2017

Superintendent: Mark Keith

School Improvement Status: Needs Improvement

## Mission Statement:

Parental Involvement is an essential component to children realizing success in school. Research also suggests that there is a strong connection between parent and family involvement in our schools, as well as in their child's/children's education. In order to increase learning, we will be aggressive in our approach to building better parent partnership in our school district. We also realize that in order to improve academic achievement, the parent must be in partnership with the school and knowledgeable of what is expected for learning.

## Parent involvement committee members:

- Nancy Patton Fairview Elementary Coordinator (870-231-8581)
- Tracey Wolfe, Fairview Elementary Parent
- Matt Patterson, Fairview Elementary Facilitator
- Sandra Gulley, Ivory Coordinator (870-836-7381)
- Vincent Johnson, Ivory Parent
- Iris Davis, Ivory Primary Facilitator
- Lois Reed, Intermediate Coordinator (870-836-6876)
- Kelly Robertson, Intermediate Parent
- Alicia Steelman, Intermediate Facilitator
- Kristi Moseley, Middle School Parent
- Juanita Mitchell, Middle School Facilitator
- Shelia Johnson, High School Parent
- Cara Bowie, High School Facilitator
- Chaundra Elliott, Community/Business Partner
- Angela Avery, ABC/HIPPY Coordinator
- Artie Furlow, District Coordinator

## Camden Fairview Parental Involvement Policy Objectives

To enlist a panel of Camden Fairview alumni, parents, teachers, and community leaders to improve parental involvement in the Camden Fairview School District.

To develop a closer relationship between parents and school faculty, administration, and staff.

To assist parents with the development of their child's emotional, social, physical, and psychological growth.

To inform parents at parent meetings of the latest technological advances in all schools.

To assist parents with the transition of their child/children from kindergarten through high school, and then into the work force and /or college.

To work cooperatively with the guidance counseling department in each building by preparing kits for parents on subjects necessary for their full development.

To inform parents of the Compulsory Attendance Law requiring students to attend school.

To encourage parent participation in after school functions at each school.

To develop strategies to increase parental involvement from traditionally non-participatory parents.

To inform parents of Middle School and High School students of the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science (AAIMS) project to prepare students for post secondary education.

To provide staff development for teachers and administrators to foster a consistent approach for creating a positive school climate.

To organize parent social activities for teachers and families.

To make families feel welcome in the school by letting them know they are valued, and supported in their efforts to become more involved.

### **Goal 1: How will the LEA foster effective parental involvement strategies and support partnerships among school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement?**

- The Camden Fairview School District will involve parents in the development of a parent involvement policy. Parents will be involved in an annual review and evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.
- An annual meeting will be conducted in the spring of the 2016-2017 school year (May 2017) to inform parents of each school's participation in Title I Part A programs, and the right of parents to be involved in those programs.

- Parents will be involved in how the 1 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. Parents give their input during the District planning meeting.

- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement activities with those of other programs including preschool programs. Angela Avery, Coordinator for Arkansas Home Instruction for parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) and Arkansas Better Chance (ABC), coordinates and ensures parent involvement activities occur throughout the year. HIPPY is coordinated with other activities. The HIPPY coordinator and teachers are available during open house and parent teacher conferences. Artie Furlow, District Coordinator, also attends HIPPY open house and parent nights.
- The Superintendent of the Camden Fairview School District shall employ one certified staff member that will serve as Parent Facilitator (**Matt Patterson, Fairview Elementary School, Iris Harris-Davis, Ivory Primary School, Alicia Steelman, Camden Fairview Elementary**) at each school by organizing training for staff, promote parent involvement, encourage a welcome atmosphere at all schools, and ensure that parental participation is recognized as a valuable asset to the school.
- The parent involvement committee will develop and review the parent involvement policy. Artie Furlow will disseminate information to the community at the October school board meeting. This information will also be published in the newspaper.
- Artie Furlow will be responsible for contacting and organizing the District Parental Involvement committee which will include parents, parent facilitators, parent coordinators, and the special programs coordinator. All parent participation is documented through sign in sheets, agendas, and minutes.

**Goal 2: How will the district provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement?**

- The superintendent assigned Artie Furlow, Special Programs Coordinator, to conduct school visits, provide support to parent facilitators and parent coordinators, and attend and participate in school parent involvement meetings.
- The Parental Involvement program within each school will:
  1. Create a climate conducive to involving parents and families in their children's education.
  2. Encourage communication between parents, teachers, and administrators by making sure they understand the importance of a positive school climate in relation to family involvement describing: a. The role of the parent, student, teachers, administrators, and school. b. Ways parents can become more involved in their child's /children's education. c. Activities that will be held throughout the school term that will

encourage parents to get involved. d. Materials that are age appropriate as well as for that child's grade that will aid in the development of that child.

3. Make parents and family members welcome in all schools, and encourage their assistance in our schools. Parents are welcome in the school. Their support and assistance are sought by: a. Making sure parents know our open-door policy through communication by newsletter, newspaper, school media channel, school handbook, and radio. b. Informing teachers, administrators, and the staff of the importance of positive school climate through staff development. c. Creating a climate in which parents feel valued and welcomed. d. Surveying parents regarding their concerns, interest, and availability in our schools. e. Assist staff members in creating a climate conducive to effectively utilizing our volunteers; providing training annually for those volunteers, and having volunteer resource books located at each school. f. Encouraging those parents that are unable to volunteer during school hours to help in other ways. g. Ensure that activities are meaningful and support their interest and abilities.

4. Acknowledge that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning. The school shall assist parents in assisting their child. a. Informing parents of expectations for students in each subject and at each grade level. b. Giving an overview at open house and parent meetings, of what students will be learning, how students will be assessed, what parents should expect for their child's education, and assist parents with ways they can make a difference in their child's/children's education. c. Involve parents in setting goals each year for their child/children and help plan their post secondary education and careers through the high school guidance counseling program.

- The district will provide opportunities for the participation of all parents, including limited English, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. Each school's parent facilitator will ensure that information provided to parents will be understandable, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.
- Parent Facilitators will ensure the parent involvement policy, educational goals and parents' rights are disseminated to parents in Title I meetings offered at flexible times. They will assist in parent involvement meetings and activities at the schools.
- The facilitators will be responsible for making sure each Title I school has a current parent involvement plan and ensure it will be disseminated to parents and the community, on the website, and in the parent resource center.
- Recognize that communication between home and school should be regular, two way, and meaningful. The school shall: a. Establish a system that allows the parents and teachers to communicate in a regular, two way, and meaningful way with the principal and their child's/children's teacher. b. Send home report cards and progress reports to parents four times a year. c. Conduct parent-teacher conferences at least twice a year, and accommodate parents through a variety of scheduling. d. Encourage teachers to contact parents immediately when concerns arise. e. Communicate positive student behavior and achievement, not just misbehavior and/or failures to parents. f. Plan activities throughout the school year and encourage parental involvement. g. Distribute materials that encourage ways parents can become involved. h. Prepare informational packets with

pertinent information concerning the age and grade of the child/children. i. Ensure that the required School-Parent Compact is developed, distributed to parents and students, and has the required components.

- Promote and support responsible parenting. To help promote and support responsible parenting, the school will: a. Assist all families, not just those attending parent meetings. b. Create Parent Resources Centers in the school district. c. Purchase parenting books, magazines, and any other material regarding parenting, and place them in the library. d. Inform parents of the up-to-date selection of materials and give parents an opportunity to check-out these materials. e. Inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) in the state. Parent coordinators at each Title I school will be responsible for these activities; their phone numbers are located at the bottom of this policy.

### **Goal 3: How will the district build the school's capacity for strong parental involvement?**

- Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement and provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as the following: a. the State's academic content standards, b. the State's student academic achievement standards, c. the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments, d. the requirements of Title I Part A, e. how to monitor their child's progress, and f. how to work with educators.
- Recognize that parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families. The school shall: a. Include parents on advisory committees. b. Encourage participation in PTO's and other parent groups to help identify issues that interest parents. c. Sponsor parent meetings to inform parents of high school students to become involved in decisions that affect how their classes are selected, planning for a career, post secondary opportunities, and work force. d. Treat parents with respect and demonstrate a genuine interest in developing solutions to their concern(s). e. Provide understandable, accessible, and well-publicized process for providing input to parental concerns, including whom to approach about a problem, appealing the decision, and how to develop a solution. This information will be located in the school handbook. . Recognize that community resources strengthen the school programs, family practices, and student learning. The school district shall take advantage of community resources by: a. Creating an alumni advisory committee to provide assistance and guidance for school improvement. b. Distribute information to the schools, community agencies, and parents, including those without school age children, regarding school programs. c. Inform staff members of the resources available in the community, and strategies for utilizing those resources. d. Develop partnerships with local businesses and social groups that will assist with student learning, assist schools, and families. e. Promote parent participation on school district committees and issues.

- Staff Development in the 2014-15 school year and every fourth year all educators shall obtain two hours of parent involvement focusing on parent involvement strategies. Administrators will receive leadership in setting goals and expectations, and creating a climate to promote active parent participation.
- To improve student achievement, the district fosters effective parental involvement strategies and supports partnerships among schools, parents, and the community.
- Artie Furlow will ensure support is provided to each Title I school in the review and annual evaluation of the schools' parent involvement plan.

**Goal 4: How will the district conduct, with the involvement of parents, ongoing evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy as it relates to strategies for increasing parental participation and identifying barriers to greater participation?**

- Artie Furlow will conduct the district wide parent involvement survey using the Alert Now system to contact parents with a five question survey. Results will be analyzed by the parent involvement committee and disseminated to parents, staff, and the community.
- The results of last year's survey were distributed to the school for use in evaluating and improving the parent involvement plans/programs and to identify barriers to parental involvement at each school. Results from the survey show that parents' satisfaction with the schools lowers as their child moves up in grades. Fairview Elementary (grades K-1) scored the highest while High School (grades 9-12) scored the lowest. The main area to focus on in each school was parents wanting to know more often how their child was doing in school. The overall highest scoring area at all schools was the teachers are willing to talk when the parent has concerns. The effectiveness of the plan is positive, and the district feels that parent involvement participation increases each year. Parent involvement activities are added at each school each year, and administrators and teachers actively recruit and involve parents.
- The Camden Fairview School District will support the development and evaluation of the Parental Involvement Policy by involving parents in the decisions, and practices of the school district, using all of the above mentioned components listed. The policy will be revised as necessary to address ways to overcome any barriers. Comments concerning the policy will be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education when the policies are submitted.

**Goal 5: How will the district involve parents in the joint development of the district Title I Application under section 1112 (ACSIP)?**

- Artie Furlow will be responsible for contacting and organizing the district ACSIP Committee including the involvement of parents from each school campus. All parent participation will be documented through sign-in sheets, agendas, and minutes. Parents and community partners will provide feedback through surveys, discussion, and evaluations to improve our district.

\*The Camden Fairview School District will review the district parental involvement policy. The policy will be in effect for the period of the 2016-17 school year. The policy will be available to parents on the website, located in parent resource centers, and upon request. Please contact Artie Furlow, Special Programs Coordinator, at 870-836-4193 for a copy of the policy or with any questions or concerns relating to the policy.