

Westside Elementary School

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN 2017-2018

Philosophy:

We recognize the family as the first and primary influence in a child's life. We believe:

- Family involvement in a child's education has the most important influence on a Child's success and achievement at school and beyond.
- A child's education is a responsibility shared by school and family.
- Families and school must work as knowledgeable partners.

Mission:

Westside Elementary School invests in the whole child by providing a safe and positive environment that demonstrates compassion and fairness. By actively engaging in a rigorous curriculum with high expectations for all learners, we are creating success in the 21st century.

Vision:

Where Everybody is Somebody
Expect, Excite, Excel
Success Happens

District: Greenbrier Public Schools

Grade Levels: Kindergarten-Fifth Grade

Parental Involvement Coordinator: Reagan Strike

Title 1: Title 1 Schoolwide

Percentage of Free/Reduced Lunch: 49.75%

Parental Involvement Committee Members: Angie Betancourt (principal), Tally Harp (Assistant Principal), Reagan Strike (Parental Involvement Facilitator), Glenda Jackson, Teresa Golden, Jodie Riggan, Stephanie Olive (parent), Aryca Hall (parent), and Tira Yarborough

1. List various communication strategies used to provide additional information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instruction that will foster effective strategies and support partnerships among schools, parents, and the community to improve student achievement.

- Westside Elementary School will distribute to every student a weekly newsletter to parents that is developed with participation of the parent-school organization (PTO), principal, staff and parent volunteers. It includes school news, a calendar of school activities, and parenting tips related to school achievement such as homework tips, parent center resources, health tips, and other helpful information for parents on ways to help their children succeed in the classroom. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Westside Elementary School will provide all parents the opportunity to receive daily e-mail announcements. Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter notifications, as well as Alert Now phone calls are also used in order to give information concerning upcoming school events and opportunities to be involved in the education of his/her child. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Greenbrier Public Schools (<http://gps.k12.ar.us>) will create an Eschool website for each classroom teacher in order to provide parents with online access to their child's weekly grades and absences that are updated weekly. Blogging and emails provide two-way communication as well as weekly lesson plan and newsletter information. Parents can access their child's classroom Eschool account using a PIN number they received at the beginning of the school year from his/her teacher. Contact Tally Harp at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Westside Elementary School will conduct two Parent/Teacher conferences held **October 19, 2017** during flexible scheduling of 3:30-8:30 and **February 15, 2018** from 3:30-8:30 to discuss students' progress, address concerns of parents and teachers, will provide assistance to parents in understanding content on how to monitor a child's progress, standards, an explanation of the interventions teachers are using to assist the child in reaching achievement goals, and academic assessments, as well as provide each student with a copy of his/her report card in order to improve academic achievement. Parents will be asked to engage in discussion of how they can support these efforts. Report cards for the second and fourth nine weeks will be sent home with students in January 2018 and last day of the school year. In addition, parents as a full educational partner may request a meeting to discuss and formulate suggestions as well as participate in decisions about the education of their children and family. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions/ additional information.
- Westside Elementary School will send home with students mid-term progress reports for each nine week period throughout the school year. First nine weeks progress reports will be sent home on September 11th. Second nine weeks progress reports will be sent home on November 15, 2017; Third nine weeks progress reports will be sent home on February 15, 2018; Fourth nine weeks progress reports will be sent home on April 23, 2018. Contact Tally Harp at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.

- Westside Elementary classroom teachers will provide weekly or daily folders containing student information papers and/or work samples each week. Parents will be asked to review the folder and send it back to school. Contact Reagan Strike at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Westside Elementary School teachers will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate about their child's progress through email, notes, conferences, and/or phone calls. Also, in order to begin a foundation of positive rapport, each classroom teacher will contact every parent of their current students. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Westside Elementary School will send parents a parent-friendly letter that explains their child's test results and standardized test scores from the previous school year. Contact Tally Harp at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Westside Elementary School will provide opportunity to understand the student handbook, volunteer training, and Eschool website with a scheduled meeting to be determined at a later date; for questions or concerns about the school wide Title I Plan as well as how to get a copy upon request. Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Westside Elementary School will ensure that information related to school and parent programs is sent to parents, including disabled parents, in a practical, understandable format. (i.e., Eschool, weekly newsletters, communication folders, daily e-mails, etc.) as well as provide information for all parents in their requested native language. Teachers will work with the trained staff to provide communication in written form as well as request an interpreter if one is needed for a conference. Our school obtains home language information through completed parent surveys at the beginning of each school year. Contact Tally Harp at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information

2. List the proposed parent meeting, conferences and activities regularly scheduled throughout this year and the dates providing flexible meeting times planned to increase parental involvement and build staff and parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts.

- Westside Elementary School PTO encourages parental involvement by providing sign-up questionnaires at orientation and PTO meetings as well as a hard copy sent home with each student regarding volunteer opportunities for parents throughout the year. Upcoming parental involvement opportunities with the Westside Elementary PTO with also be shared with parents during monthly Spirit Day assemblies.
 - Parent Orientation (August 10, 2017)
 - Elementary Gifted & Talented (GT)/Greenbrier Arkansans for Gifted And Talented Education (AGATE) Affiliate/Destination Imagination (DI), Pre-Advanced Placement (AP) Parent Meeting (District: September 2017)
 - Volunteer Training (September 12, 2017)
 - Title I Parent Meeting (Westside Elementary School: September 12, 2017 @ 3:45)
 - Report to the Public (District: Fall 2017)
 - Watch Dog Dads (September 25, 2017)
 - Family Movie Night (September 29, 2017)
 - Boy Scouts Information Meeting (September 2017)
 - Math/Science Night (October 9, 2017)
 - Fall Festival (October 21, 2017)
 - Veteran's Day Celebration (November 2017)
 - Literacy Night (December 2017)
 - Wellness Night (Spring 2018)
 - Grandparent's Day (Spring 2018)
 - Book Fair (Spring 2018)
 - Track and Field Day (Target Date: May 2018)
 - Arts in March (Target Date: April 2018)
 - The Giving Tree (opportunity to supply items for children and families in need throughout the year)
 - Read Across America Day/Dr. Seuss Day (March 2, 2018)
 - Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast (May 2018)
 - Spirit Day/Student of the Month (first Friday of each month at 8:30)
 - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youth (HIPPY)
 - Box Top/Recycling Program
 - Kindergarten End of Year Celebration /Fifth Grade Luau (Target May 2018)
 - Opportunity to attend field trips and participate in classroom/school activities
 - Monthly PTO meetings are scheduled as followed: Second Tuesday of every month
 - Westside Elementary School and Greenbrier Middle School work together to help provide a smooth transition from one school to the next by raising parent awareness of procedures and related activities. The school will host special orientation programs for parents and students to help with the transition. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the new teachers at the end of the school year. (Target Date: May 2018)

3. How will Westside Elementary School provide information to parents about volunteer opportunities?

- Parents will be welcomed to visit the school through opportunities for service through innovative volunteer engagement programs. Volunteer sign-in sheets and daily volunteer logs will be maintained throughout the school year. To help our parents in assisting their children our school will schedule Parental Involvement Meetings to discuss the intent of the school wide program at which parents are given a report on the state of the school and an overview of: A. What students will be learning. B. How students will be assessed. C. What parents should expect for their child's education. D. How a parent can assist and make a difference in his/her child's education. Contact Reagan Strike at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Parents will be distributed a Parental Engagement Survey in order to welcome parents into our school. Westside Elementary School will use the compiled surveys to create an ongoing Volunteer Resource Book listing the interests, preferences, and availability of volunteers so that school staff may determine how frequently a volunteer would like to participate. The Resource Book is easily accessible and located in the Westside Elementary School Parent Center, which will also include options for those who are available to help at home and help match school needs with volunteer interests. Contact Reagan Strike at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- STATE REQUIREMENT – Sponsor seminars to inform the parents of high school students about how to be involved in the decisions affecting high school course selection (CAP conferences - Target February 2018), career planning, and preparation for postsecondary opportunities, Kindergarten Community Helper unit of study/field trip, Fifth Grade Career Fair (Target Date: April 2018), and guest speakers in the classrooms). Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.

- Westside Elementary School will send flyers home with students, update school marquees, post notices in school facilities and public buildings, Eschool class/school blogs, Greenbrier Public Schools District Website calendar of events, and provide information for local newspapers and radio stations about parent workshops and meetings.

4. How will Westside Elementary School work with parents to create a School-Parent-Compact?

- School staff, parents, and students developed a school-parent-student compact by collaborating with parents and staff to develop how all stakeholders share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. There will be an annual review and update of our School/Parent Compact each school year, which will be included in the Student Handbook. All stakeholders signed and returned handbook signature page will serve as evidence of distribution at orientation (August 2017). Contact Tally Harp at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.

5. How will Westside Elementary School provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of school wide school improvement and the Annual Title I Meeting to engage them in the decision-making processes regarding the school's Title I, Part A Program to will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating in planning effective parental involvement?

- Westside Elementary School has a Parental Involvement Committee, which includes parents and staff members. The committee was formed on the basis of the willingness of staff members and parents to volunteer for the committee. The committee will meet in November 2017 and revise the Parent Involvement Plan in order to focus on building strengths and improving weak areas as well as discussion of Title I funding. The committee will keep open communication throughout the school year and will meet once more in the spring of 2018 for evaluation of the parental involvement program results from school wide surveys. If need be, the committee will meet on additional occasions. Contact Reagan Strike at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Parents can contribute to implementation through active involvement in volunteering at school events, participating in training on how to contribute to the process in a meaningful way, assisting in coordinating parental involvement programs/strategies, curricular/instructional review committees during analyzing of test data prior to the school year, and utilizing parent center resources. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions/additional info.
- STATE REQUIREMENT: In order to take advantage of community resources Westside Elementary School will continue to support our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), which fosters parental and community involvement within the school. Elected officers lead this organization and collaboratively make decisions affecting the children and family in our school. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions/additional information.
- STATE REQUIREMENT Angie Betancourt will designate one certified staff member (Reagan Strike) who is willing to serve as a parent facilitator in order to help organize meaningful training for staff and parents; promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere to foster parental involvement in the school; awareness of importance for effective communication skills; value and inclusion of parent contributions as equal partners; and to undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school. This designee will attend the state parental involvement conference to acquire skills to increase involvement of low socioeconomic parents. In addition, ongoing professional development will include no fewer than two hours of professional development for teachers designed to enhance the understanding of effective parental involvement strategies. No fewer than three hours of professional development for administrators designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation. Contact Tally Harp at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- STATE REQUIREMENT – To take advantage of community resources, the Greenbrier Public School District will consider recruiting alumni from the school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance for school improvement. Alumni Organizations are represented by former High School students and accessibility to all Greenbrier graduates. Greenbrier Alumni Representative: Donnie McMillen. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.

6. How will Westside Elementary School provide resources for parents?

- STATE REQUIREMENT: Westside Elementary will prepare as well as distribute to every student informational packets appropriate for the age, home language, and grade of each child to initiate and encourage communication with parents. These packets will describe: *The school's parental involvement program/plan; *The recommended role of the parent, student, teacher and school *Ways for parents to become involved in the school and their child's education *A survey for the parent regarding their interests concerning volunteering at the school *A schedule of activities planned throughout the school year to encourage parental involvement *A system to allow the parents and teachers to communicate in a regular, two-way meaningful manner with the child's teacher and principal. * Process for resolving parental involvement concerns, including how to define a problem, who to approach first, and how to develop solutions. Contact Reagan Strike at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Westside Elementary School's parental involvement plan will be posted on the school's website and revised annually by the parental involvement committee. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- STATE REQUIREMENT – Greenbrier Public Schools will provide instruction to a parent on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation: role play and demonstration by trained volunteer, the use of and access to the Department of Education website tools for parents, assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation and other strategies or curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- STATE REQUIREMENT - To promote and support responsible parenting, a Parent Center, located at the front lobby of Westside Elementary School and open during school operating hours allowing opportunity to browse and check-out materials. Materials will be purchased for a parent center to assist as requested and approved by parental involvement committee with parenting ideas and practices and to help parents at home in helping their children achieve academic success. Check-out is on the honor system with a sign-out folder as well as a suggestion sheet will also be available for parental input. In addition, Reagan Strike (parental involvement facilitator) will collaborate with parents/teachers to provide specific materials to be used in the classroom or sent home from the parent center if parents are unable to visit the school using "prescriptions." Contact Reagan Strike at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.

Example materials include:

- o Parental Involvement Plan
- o Literacy and math learning games/activities
- o Nonfiction/fiction books

- o Educational CD's/DVD's
- o Parenting books/magazines/CD's/DVD's
- o Family involvement/student enrichment activities
- o Bi-lingual materials available on numerous topics

7. How will Westside Elementary School engage parents in the evaluation of your parental involvement efforts?

- Parental Involvement committee will meet in May 2018 to review school policy in order to address coordination and integration of activities and programs. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Building Leadership team (grade level representatives and volunteer parents) will meet in May 2018 to review policies and procedures related to family and community involvement that may present barriers to student's achievement. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- Westside Elementary School will engage parents in the annual evaluation of the Title I, Part A Program's parental involvement efforts through an annual evaluation using a comprehensive needs assessment online and/or hard copy filled out by teachers, parents and school staff. The Title I committee, made up of teachers, parents and school staff, will determine the effectiveness of the parental involvement plan and make changes if warranted. While collecting evidence about satisfaction with the program and the school's efforts to increase parental involvement will be a part of the evaluation, the survey will also collect specific information on the (1) growth in number of parents participating in workshops and meetings; (2) specific needs of parents; (3) effectiveness of specific strategies; and (4) engagement of parents in activities to support student academic growth. Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.

8. How will Westside Elementary School use the parent interest surveys to select, plan, and implement parental involvement activities that will be offered throughout the year?

- There are two parent surveys per year in order to get parental input and advice in attempt to evaluate and review our parent involvement plan online or with the provided hard copy. The survey results are distributed to the Parent Involvement Committee to discuss strengths and weaknesses of the parent involvement program/plan. The Parent Involvement Committee will analyze the results of the parent interest survey will be used to plan the parental involvement activities for the following year. All of the concerns about the survey were discussed and Westside Elementary School will increase efforts for improvements this school year. Contact Reagan Strike at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.
- The surveys will be recorded on a spreadsheet and given to Westside Elementary School parents in order to determine which parents want to volunteer, suggested ideas, availability, and their assignment preferences on a compiled list. Parents are notified of volunteer opportunities through daily emails, flyers sent home, announcements on the school marquee, and notifications on Eschool pages. Contact Reagan Strike at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.

9. When will Westside Elementary School plan the Annual Title I Meeting that must be conducted separately?

- Westside Elementary School will conduct an annual, stand alone, Title I Meeting (Part A, Act 397) on September 12, 2017 to inform parents about their rights to be involved in the planning, review, improvement of parental programs, as well as their benefits, the schoolwide program authority, and the ability of the school to consolidate funds from federal, state, and local sources. Westside Elementary School will provide parents of students receiving Title I services information about the following components: a. Parents Right to Know (a requirement letting parents know the qualifications of individual teachers posted on the Westside Elementary School's website), b. Annual Report Card (this is the report card for the district, which tells how all schools performed on the spring 2015 Benchmark, IOWA, etc. If a parent wants the annual report card specifically for Greenbrier Public Schools, this will be provided for them), c. Individual Student's Assessment Report (state assessment results and report cards for their children), d. Progress Review, e. Written State Complaint Procedures (distributed in the parental information packets), f. Parental Communication (parents and the school/staff can communicate by: in person contact, by phone, emails, letters, flyers, Facebook, etc), g. Disabled parents to ensure meaningful participation in Title I, Part A Programs (The communication with disabled parents will be as effective as communication with all other parents. Westside Elementary School will furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford parents with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of Title I, Part A programs, services, activities, including Parental Involvement provisions), h. description of the curriculum, i.e. information on forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress as well as the information on the proficiency level students are expected to meet, j. right to request a meeting (parents can request a meeting if they want to formulate suggestions and/or participate in decisions to be made about their child's education). Contact Angie Betancourt at 679-1029 for any questions or additional information.

Helpful Websites and Tips to Use at Home to Help Your Child

Kindergarten-

- Website: starfall.com
- Helpful Tips: Literacy-Have your child find letters from practical/functional text (newspapers, ads, etc.) to help build letter recognition. Math- Practice counting from 1-100.

First Grade-

- Website: spellingcity.com
- Helpful Tips: Literacy-Use decoding strategies "word helpers" to help your child decode unknown words. Math-Use crackers, cereal, etc. as hands-on manipulatives to practice addition and subtraction facts.

Second Grade-

- Website: funbrain.com, jmathpage.com, learninggamesforkids.com
- Helpful Tips: Literacy-After reading a book, ask your child questions to improve comprehension. (Who? What? When? Where? Why?) Math-Practice addition and subtraction facts 0-20.

Third Grade-

- Website: readwritethink.org, multiplication.com
- Helpful Tips: Literacy-Read a variety of text-nonfiction, fiction, practical/functional (menu, recipe, brochures, directions, etc.) Math-Practice multiplication facts 0-12 (skip-counting, repeated addition, arrays, etc.)

Fourth Grade-

- Website: internet4classes.com,
http://www.internet4classrooms.com/skill_builders/sentence_structure_language_arts_fourth_4th_grade.htm
(sentence structure)
- Helpful Tips- Literacy-When preparing meals, have your child read the recipe. Math-Use a restaurant menu to practice making change.

Fifth Grade:

- Website: bensguide.gpo.gov, aaamath.com
- Helpful Tips: Literacy-Have your child read recipes to improve reading and vocabulary. Math-Use recipes to teach math skills-fractions, measuring, etc.

Do you have an idea of materials that would be beneficial in our Parent Center or other suggestions to improve our parental involvement program and plan? Please feel free to list them below and return them to school, contact Reagan Strike (striker@greenbrierschools.org) or Angie Betancourt (betancourta@greenbrierschools.org), or call school at 501-679-1029.

I have received and reviewed the Westside Parental Involvement Plan.

_____ Child's Name

_____ Parent Signature