

**Parent & Family Engagement
Elkins Elementary School
2017-2018**

Elkins Elementary understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the school and those it serves.

Therefore, Elkins Elementary strives to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community engagement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community. To achieve this, the school will work to:

1. Engage parents and the community in the development and improvement of Title 1 programs for the school.

- a. The Parent & Family Engagement Committee, which is made up of, the parent facilitator, principal, faculty members, alumni, and parents will meet as needed to make decisions about Parent & Family Engagement plans.
- b. The Parent & Family Engagement Committee will use input from surveys regarding parental engagement to help improve the quality of the program.
- c. Parents attending PTO meetings will have input on a variety of projects which affect the school.
- d. Teachers will send Classroom/Grade level newsletters home to communicate with parents about events and information related to academic success.
- e. At the beginning of each academic year, teachers, parents, and students along with the building administrator and the parent facilitator will review and sign a Parent, Teacher, Student Compact, which is a voluntary commitment to provide a partnership for the improvement of student achievement.
- f. Parents will be invited to attend and have input in our school's monthly ACSIP leadership meetings, the Title I meeting each semester and annual Parent Informative Meeting.
- g. Teachers will communicate daily with parents through the use of a daily communication folder.
- h. Information regarding our school will also be available on the school's website, elkinsdistrict.org.
- i. Watch Dogs Dads will be promoted as a positive Parent & Family Engagement program.

2. Have a coordinated engagement program where the engagement activities of the school enhance the engagement strategies of other programs, such as Elkins Preschool, HIPPY, Parents as Partners, ABC, ABC for School Success, Girls on the Run, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. PTO will help school and parents work together with coordinated events and fund raising.

3. Explain to parents and community the state's content and achievement standards, State and Local student assessments and how the school's curriculum is aligned with the assessments and how parents can work with the school to improve their child's academic achievement.

- a. An Annual Report to the Public Meeting is held at the beginning of each school year to ensure understanding in these goal areas.
- b. Elkins Elementary will use computer programs to give parents access and enhance learning at home
 - i. Home Access Center or HAC, which shows assignments and grades in all subjects
 - ii. Moby Max and Odyssey, which are math and language programs.
 - iii. Accelerated Reader (AR) where parents can see reading progress from home.
- c. Informational Packets, containing school information, student handbook acknowledgement forms, school procedures for arrival and dismissal, student information sheets, tips for parents, school calendar, etc. ... will be given at Open House and new student registration.
- d. At the beginning of each academic school year, the district will hold an Annual Meeting to the Public to ensure the understanding in goal areas.
- e. The Elementary will host an annual Open House at the beginning of the academic school year.
- f. The Elementary will host an annual Literacy night in the fall of each academic school year.
- g. The Elementary will host an annual Math and Science night in the spring of each academic school year.

4. Provide parents with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The school may use parent resource centers or other community-based organizations to foster parental engagement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.

- a. The Parent Facilitator is responsible for updating information that is needed from parents' suggestions.
- b. The school will work in joint collaboration with parents, community stakeholders, and teachers in the contribution towards students' personal/social/academic success.
- c. Parent Library is open throughout the school year during the instructional day in the school library.
- d. Student handbooks will contain the process for addressing parental concerns with students' personal/social/academic success.
- e. The Good Samaritan Center in Springdale provide our school with Snack Packs, that are sent home weekly with students and families who may need the assistance.

5. Educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement Parent & Family Engagement programs that will promote positive partnership between the school and parents.

- a. In the 2014-2015 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, each educator shall be required to have two (2) hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective Parent & Family Engagement strategies.
- b. In the 2014-2015 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, each administrator shall be required to have two (2) hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective Parent & Family Engagement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parent participation.
- c. Parents and Teachers are encouraged to attend monthly PTO meetings.
- d. At the end of each year, the elementary, along with the primary will hold a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, which acknowledges and thanks all volunteers of both Elkins Primary and Elementary schools with cake, refreshments, prizes and certificates.
- e. The elementary school will use communication folders to communicate daily with parents about student behavior, homework and progress.
- f. Other ways that the school will communicate with stakeholders is through the use of the school's website, school's marquee, welcome information board, social media sites, eSchool (HAC) Newsletters, volunteer trainings and appreciations, etc.

6. Keep parents informed about parental engagement programs, meetings, and other activities in which they could be engaged. This communication should be to a reasonable extent in a language the parents can understand.

- a. The elementary school will keep parents informed about activities that they could become engaged in with the use of
 - i. websites
 - ii. newsletters
 - iii. Volunteer Surveys
 - iv. Communication Folders
 - v. Marquee

7. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents from being engaged in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences.

- a. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held during the school day as well as after school hours.
- b. Information from parent surveys will give insight to how we can eliminate barriers and make communication more productive.
- c. Interpreters for school events, meetings, and conferences will be provided as needed.
- d. Volunteer trainings will be provided throughout the year as needed.
- e. During the Volunteer Celebration, child care will be provided.
- f. Information will be provided in multiple languages as needed and when applicable.

8. Find and modify other successful parent and community engagement programs to suit the needs of our school.

- a. Successful Parent and Community Engagement programs may include programs such as
 - i. Kool Kid program and assemblies.
 - ii. Red Ribbon Week Assembly
 - iii. Box Top Competitions.
 - iv. Snack Pack Program.
 - v. Christmas Treasures.
 - vi. Constitution Day and Freedom Week.
 - vii. Ozark Guidance - School based counselling services for students and families.
 - viii. Boston Mountain Solid Waste Recycling Program
 - ix. Watch Dog Dads.

9. Train Parents to enhance and promote the engagement of other parents.

- a. Volunteer training will be held at the beginning of each academic year and throughout the year as needed.
- b. PTO officers will be elected each year.
- c. PTO will hold monthly meetings and various events throughout the year.
- d. Parents may assist with book fairs and interact with students and parents.
- e. Volunteer Program.

10. Provide reasonable support for other parental engagement activities

- a. Support for programs such as
 - i. Field trips
 - ii. Class parties
 - iii. Volunteer classroom readers
 - iv. Book fairs.
 - v. Popcorn Fridays
 - vi. PTO/School coordinated activities and events
 - 1. Literacy Nights
 - 2. Math and Science Nights
 - 3. Open House
 - 4. Fall Festival
 - vii. Kool Kid and character education programs
 - viii. Christmas family donations/distributions
 - ix. Christmas music program.
 - x. Fund raising programs
 - xi. Arts in the Park.
 - xii. Snack Pack Program.
 - xiii. Volunteer Celebration/Appreciation.