

AR
Ouachita River School District
143 Polk 96
Mena AR 71953
479-394-2348

District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

School Year:	2018/2019
Superintendent:	Jerry Strasner
District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator:	Kathy Medford
Email (of Coordinator):	kmedford@orsd.k12.ar.us

Parent and Family Engagement Committee Members

(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)

First Name	Last Name	Position
Eric	Goss	Community Member
Davelynn	Lane	Principal
Kathy	Medford	Federal Programs
Margo	Kimp	Alumni Advisor
Tammy	Young	District Career Coach
Duane	Powell	Parent

Parent and Family Engagement Committee Members

(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)

First Name	Last Name	Position
Susan	Kennedy	Parent
Linda	Heath	AES Parent Facilitator
Rhonda	Willborg	AHS Parent Facilitator
Elicia	Bergum	Oden Parent Facilitator

Goal 1: How will the LEA foster effective parent and family engagement strategies and support partnerships among school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement?

To welcome parents into the schools and to seek parental support and assistance, the district and/or schools shall not have any policies or procedures that would discourage a parent from visiting the school. Ouachita River School District will ensure that all parents are supported as concerned and involved partners, regardless of income, education or cultural background. Ouachita River School District recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire time the child spends in school. To support the goal of the district to educate all students effectively, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners. Each spring the Ouachita River School District, the parents, and the community will meet to update next school year's Title I, Part A program, review the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy, and help create parental engagement activities. This updated information will be part of the school's and district's Parent and Family Engagement Plans and given to parents in the information packets distributed at the beginning of each school year. All information will be in a format and/or language that parents can understand. The revised and/or updated Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be filed with the Arkansas Department of Education through Indistar and posted to the district website.

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

Ouachita River School District acknowledges that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning. Parent and Family Engagement Plans shall include programs and practices that enhance parental involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families. To help the parents, students and schools team and partner together to best assure the academic successes of the students, Parental Engagement meetings will be scheduled at flexible meeting times. All meetings, including Open House, Parent/Teacher Conferences and Public Meetings will be scheduled and advertised in the local newspapers, on the local radio stations, the district website, letters home with students and on Facebook to welcome parents and/or family. Ouachita River School District will communicate, using varied methods, media, resources and languages, the rights and responsibilities of parents to develop and respond to education policy, procedures, and practices at the national, state, and local levels. The designated parent facilitator for each building will be responsible for this. Acorn Elementary School's contact person is Linda Heath. She can be reached at (479)243-0396. Acorn High School's contact person is Rhonda Willborg. She can be reached at (479)394-2348 ext. 203. Oden Schools K-12 contact person is Elicia Bergum. She can be reached at (870)236-4311. To encourage communication with parents, each of Ouachita River School District's schools shall prepare informational packets to be distributed annually, schedule no less than two parent/teacher conferences per school year, plan and engage in activities designed to improve student academic achievement and encourage frequent communication with parents, and involve parents in the planning processes of Title I, Title II, Title IV and other such programs. Parent/teacher conferences for the 2018/2019 school year will be October 18th and March 14th. Other planned meetings: August 14th, Smart Core Meeting, Public Meeting, Title I Public Meeting, and Open House. September 11th, Parent and Family Engagement, May 2 Parent and Family Engagement Plan Review, Professional Development Plan Review. May 8, 2019, Title I Planning Meeting and Closing The Achievement Gap Meeting. In October a seminar will be held to inform parents of high school students how to be involved in career planning and preparation for post-secondary opportunities. Literacy/Math/Academic Nights will be provided on each campus. The school buildings will advertise the dates once they are determined.

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

Ouachita River School District will provide reasonable support for parental involvement at the request of the Title I, Part A schools. Kathy Medford, federal programs/Title I Coordinator, will be the contact person responsible for providing reasonable parental involvement and engagement support requests to the schools. The Ouachita River School District Title I Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that each parent facilitator in the district performs the required tasks of developing the Parent and Family Engagement Plans, offering meetings at flexible times, developing the School-Parent Compacts, and providing needed and required information to all parents in a language and/or format they can understand. Mrs. Medford can be reached at (479)394-2348.

The district shall designate at least one certified staff member on each campus to serve as a parent facilitator to organize meaningful training for staff and parents promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parental engagement in the schools and to undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the district. This person will work closely with teachers, staff members and parents to provide the activities required under Act 603 as amended by Act 307 of 2007. This person will also be responsible for developing parent engagement groups. The parent facilitators are Linda Heath, Acorn Elementary (479-243-0396), Rhonda Willborg, Acorn High School (479-394-2348, ext. 203) and Elicia Bergum, Oden Schools (870-326-4311).

Parents, community members, and school staff will develop a parent survey for suggestions to improve school effectiveness. The survey will be reviewed and needed changes added each school year. The district facilitators will be responsible for this.

To promote and support responsible parenting, a Parent Resource Center with parenting books, magazines, educational information, and other useful materials will be provided. Parents may visit the center at their convenience to borrow, for review, any item located in the Parent Resource Center. The location of the Parent Center will be announced annually at the Title I Parent Meeting and the Public Meeting.

Informational packets will be developed in a language and format every parent can understand, printed and

distributed to parents at the beginning of the school year. The packets will provide parents with a student handbook, schedule of events, how they may obtain information about the status and progress of their children, volunteer work, parent engagement plans, and how they may become involved in the education process of their children.

The process for parents to follow to resolve concerns will be placed in the Student/Parent Handbook, distributed to all parents, and made available in the school offices, at the annual Title I Public Meeting and annual District Public Meeting.

Ouachita River School District shall provide no less than two hours of professional development opportunities for teachers every four years, which may be included in the minimum number of hours required, designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies. The district shall provide no fewer than two hours of professional development opportunities for administrators every four years, which may be included in the minimum number of hours required, designed to enhance understanding of effective parent engagement strategies, and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation. Jerry Strasner, superintendent, will be responsible for making the professional development hours available. He will also conduct ongoing site visits to each campus to ensure the parent engagement practices are in place. Mr. Strasner can be reached at (479)394-2348.

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

Parents will be surveyed each spring concerning school effectiveness and ensuring that there are no barriers that may limit the parent's opportunities to participate fully in their child's education. A committee of parents, community members, and school staff will review the data and make recommendations, if needed, to each school. The district facilitators will be responsible for this. They are Linda Heath, Acorn Elementary (479-243-0396), Rhonda Willborg, Acorn High School (479-394-2348, ext. 203), Elicia Bergum, Oden Campus (870-326-4311). The district facilitators will report the results of this survey during the Title I Public Meeting held in August.

A parent/family engagement volunteer survey will be sent home in the informational packets each school year. A volunteer resource book, listing the interests and availability of volunteers, will be made available for school staff member's use.

Parent engagement opportunities with area preschool programs will be provided to ensure a smooth transition into kindergarten. Judy Newcomb is the contact person on the Acorn Campus and can be reached at (479)394-4833. William Edwards is the contact person on the Oden Campus and can be reached at (870)326-4311.

Teachers and staff members will work with parents to refine the Title I Student/Teacher/Parent/Principal's Compact. The compact will outline how each stakeholder shares the responsibility for improving student academic achievement. The compact will be completed at the beginning of each school year and placed on file at the school. For more information concerning the compact, please contact the principals, Davelynn Lane, Acorn Elementary (479-394-4833), William Edwards, Oden Campus (870-326-4311).

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

Ouachita River School District will work with parents and community members to serve on the district ACSIP committee to develop the Title I Application. The district will form a parent advisory committee to help review the district's annual survey to improve district effectiveness. The parent facilitators and Kathy Medford, Title I Coordinator (479-394-2348), will be responsible for forming this committee. Parent facilitators are Linda Heath, Acorn Elementary (479-243-0396), Rhonda Willborg, Acorn High School (479-394-2348 ext. 203) and Elicia Bergum on the Oden Campus (870-326-4311).

Goals	Attention: Changes Needed!	In Compliance	Comments	Date of Feedback
Goal 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ouachita River School District's 2018-2019 Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been reviewed and is in compliance. No revisions are needed at this time. The plan can now be posted to your website. Please, retain a copy of this review along with a copy of your 2018-2019 Parent and Family Engagement Plan for your records. Thanks so much for the hard work and effort that went into completing your plan.	10/4/2018
Goal 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		10/4/2018
Goal 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		10/4/2018
Goal 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		10/4/2018
Goal 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		10/4/2018