

OUACHITA RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENT INVOLVEMENT
PLAN

2017/2018

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

Ouachita River School District exists to provide a safe, caring environment where everyone learns and grows in order to be prepared for life.

DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT:

Ouachita River School District's vision is for each person in our system to find their purpose and use that purpose to impact the world.

<u>District:</u>	Ouachita River School District
<u>School Year:</u>	2017-2018
<u>Superintendent:</u>	Jerry Strasner
<u>Committee Members:</u>	Eric Goss, Parent/Community Member Samantha Holland, Community Member Judy Newcomb, Academic Coach Davelynn Lane, Principal Larrita Flatte, Academic Coach Donna Reyer, Principal Margo Kimp, Grandparent/Alumni Advisor Jerusha Tedder, Parent Duane Powell, Parent Kim Fryar, Parent Mary Norman, Parent Susan Kennedy, Parent Elisa Bergum, Coordinator Colby Singleton, Coordinator Linda Heath, Coordinator

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 1, Part A program, review the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy, and help create parental involvement activities. This updated

information will be part of the school's and district's Parent Involvement 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 Involvement Plan will be filed with the Arkansas Department of Education.

Ouachita River School District acknowledges that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning. To help the parents, students and schools team and partner together to best assure the academic successes of the students, "Parental Involvement Meetings" will be scheduled. All meetings, including Open House and Parent/Teacher Conferences will be advertised in the local newspapers, on the local radio stations, and facebook to welcome parents and/or guardians.

Parent Involvement 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. Donna Reyer is the contact person on the Oden Campus and can be reached at (870)326-4311.

Ouachita River School District shall designate at least one (1) 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 involvement 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. On the Acorn Campus contact Linda Heath (479-243-0396) and Colby

Singleton (479-394-5544). On the Oden Campus contact Elisa Bergum (870-326-4311).

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 Resource Center will be announced annually at the Title I Parent Meeting and the Public Meeting.

Informational packets will be developed, 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 involvement plans, and how they may become involved in the education process of their children. These packets will be available in a language and format every parent can understand.

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.

Ouachita River School District shall provide no less than two (2) hours of professional development opportunities for teachers every four (4) years, which may be included in the minimum number of hours required, designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.

Ouachita River School District shall provide no fewer than three (3) hours of professional development opportunities for administrators every four (4) years, in addition to the minimum number of hours of professional development required, 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.

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 involvement practices are in place. He can be reached at (479)394-2348.

Kathy Medford, the Ouachita River School District Title 1 coordinator, will be responsible for ensuring that each parent facilitator in the district performs the required tasks of developing the Parent Involvement Plans, offering meetings at flexible times, developing the School-Parent Compact, and provides needed and required information to all parents in a language and/or format they can understand. She can be reached at (479)394-2348.

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 support requests to the schools. Mrs. Medford can be reached at (479)394-2348.

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. For Acorn Elementary School the contact person is Linda Heath. She can be reached at (479)243-0396. For Acorn High School the contact person

is Colby Singleton. She can be reached at (479)394-5544. The Ode Maddox Elementary School and Oden High School contact person is Elisa Bergum. She can be reached at (870)236-4311.

Ouachita River School District's Parent Involvement Plan shall include programs and practices that enhance parental involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

To encourage communication with parents, the Ouachita River School District shall prepare informational packets to be distributed annually, schedule no less than two (2) 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 IVA and other such programs. Parent/teacher conferences for the 2017-2018 school year will be October 19th and March 15th. Other planned meetings are as follows: August 15th, Smart Core Meeting, Public Meeting, and Open House, September 27th, Parent Involvement Plan/Title I Planning/District ACSIP Meetings, May 3rd, Parent Involvement Plan Review, Professional Development Plan Review, and ACSIP Peer Review, and May 9th Title I Planning Meeting and Closing the Achievement Gap Meeting. In January 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. A Literacy Night and Math Night will be provided on each campus. Each building will advertise the date after they are decided on. For more information on these meetings, contact Linda Heath (479-243-0396) or Colby Singleton (479-394-5544) on the Acorn campus and Elisa Bergum (870-326-4311) on the Oden campus.

Parents, community members, and school staff will develop a parent survey for suggestions to improve school effectiveness. The district facilitators will be responsible for this. They are Linda Heath (479-243-0396) and Colby Singleton (479-394-5544) on the Acorn Campus and Elisa Bergum (870-326-4311) on the Oden Campus.

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 this contact the principals, Davelynn Lane (479-394-4833) on the Acorn campus and Donna Reyer on the Oden campus (479-326-4311).

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.

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 (479-243-0396) and Colby Singleton (479-394-5544) on the Acorn Campus and Elisa Bergum (870-326-4311) on the Oden Campus. The

district facilitators will report the results of this survey during the Public Meeting held in August.

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

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 will be responsible for forming this committee. They are Linda Heath (479-243-0396) and Colby Singleton (479-394-5544) on the Acorn Campus and Elisa Bergum (870-326-4311) on the Oden Campus.