

2014-2015 Thirty-Fourth Parent Involvement Plan

District: Pine Bluff School District

Verneice Lowery, Principal

School Improvement Status: Achieving in Literacy, need improvement in math

Grade Level: K-5

Parental Involvement Coordinator, Kawana McCloud

Are You Title I Schoolwide? Yes

Percent of free and reduced lunch: 91.7%

Committee member: Verneice Lowery, Principal

Committee member: Kawana McCloud Parental Involvement Facilitator

Committee member: Beverly Jones, Assistant Principal

Committee member: Virginia Browning, Reading Recovery

Committee member: Erica Cooper, Math Coach

Committee member: Paula Finley, Literacy Coach

Committee member: Tina Martin, Parent

Committee member: Keith Martin, Parent

Committee member: Kevin Crumpton, Parent

1. List various communication strategies used in your school to provide additional information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instruction.

34th Avenue Elementary will distribute a monthly calendar to parents that is developed with participation of the parent-school organization, 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, organizational skills, and study skills.

34th reading specialist and parent volunteers will create a pamphlet explaining the school's involvement with the state's reading initiative and how the parents can be involved in supporting the goals of this initiative.

34th will provide to parents reports/report cards every four weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress and upcoming classroom and school events.

34th will offer parents a special workshop each year on the school's approach to school improvement.

2. List the proposed parent meeting, conferences and activities regularly throughout this year and the dates providing flexible meeting times that you have planned to increase parental involvement and build staff and parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts. (Must include the 2 state mandated parent/teacher conferences each year.)

34th reading specialist and parent volunteers will create a pamphlet explaining the school's involvement with the state's reading initiative and how the parents can be involved in supporting the goals of this initiative.

34th will provide to parents reports/report cards every four weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress and upcoming classroom and school events.

34th will offer parents a special workshop each year on the school's approach to school improvement. Math and Literacy nights will include parent training sessions to help parents understand how to enhance their child's education.

Outside speakers will provide parents with more information concerning ways to make their child's academic life more successful.

Teachers will hold conferences individually with parents of children in their classrooms. Parents will be given a summary of the student's test scores and an explanation of the interventions teachers are using to assist the child in reading achievement goals. Parents will be asked to engage in discussion of how they can support these efforts. Parents will also be given suggestions for coordinating school-parent efforts and explanations of homework and grading procedures.

34th will encourage parents in the following types of roles and activities to increase their involvement and support for student learning: reading buddy, teacher assistant, tutor, special parent lunches, Grandparents Day, awards day presentation, field day volunteers, open house, parent-school organization, red ribbon week, and various committees.

3. How will your school provide information to parents about volunteer opportunities (must include state mandated parent training)?

34th will provide a list of volunteer opportunities and solicit ideas for other types of volunteer efforts during orientation of parents. Teachers will explain the requirements to parents and encourage them to become involved in the school.

34th will work with Belair Middle School and Southeast Middle School to help provide a smooth transition from one school to the next by raising parent awareness of procedures and related activities.

34th 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 curriculum developed or acquired by the school district for at home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education.

(Staff Development) The State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts shall require no fewer than (2) hours of professional development for teachers designed to enhance the understanding of effective parental involvement strategies. No fewer than three (3) 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.

4. How will your school work with parents to create a School-Parent-Compact?

34th Avenue Elementary School jointly develops with parents a school parent compact that outlines how:

- a. Parents, the entire staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.
- b. The school will provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served to meet the state's academic achievement standards.
- c. Each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive extracurricular time.

The compact also addresses the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:

- a. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class
- b. Parent teacher conferences twice yearly, during which the compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement
- c. Parents will be involved in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of: Title I programs, Parent Involvement Policy, and ACSIP

5. How will your school provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of the school wide school improvement plan, and the Annual Title I Meeting to engage them in the decision-making processes regarding the school's Title I, Part A Program?

34th will take advantage of community resources, the school shall consider recruiting alumni from the school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance for school improvement.

34th shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association or organization that will foster parental and community involvement within the school.

6. How will your school provide resources for parents?

Parents may check out materials, use the computer to check grades, and visit educational websites.

34th will distribute informational packets each year that includes a copy of the school's parental involvement plan, survey for volunteer interests, recommended roles for parents/teachers/students and school, suggestions of ways parents can become involved in their child's education, parental

involvement activities planned for the current school year and information about the system that will be used to allow parents and teachers to communicate such as notes, phone calls, and email.

34th will promote and support responsible parenting, the school shall, as funds are available: Purchase parenting books, magazines, and other formative materials regarding responsible parenting through the school library, advertise the current selection, and give parents the opportunity to borrow the materials for review. Create a parent center.

Include in the school's policy handbook the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define a problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions.

Mrs. Lowery, school principal, shall designate (1) certified staff member who is willing to serve as a parent facilitator.

7. How will your school engage parents in the evaluation of your parental involvement efforts?

The school will engage parents in the annual evaluation of the Title I parental involvement efforts through an annual evaluation using a comprehensive needs assessment filled out by teachers, parents and school staff.

While collecting evidence about satisfaction with the program and 34th 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.

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

34th will sponsor seminars to inform the parents of K-5 students about how to be involved in the decisions affecting current and future academic opportunities. Parent will be summoned to complete parent interest surveys at the start of the school year. Results of surveys will be analyzed and aide in the development of activities throughout the year.

9. When will your school plan the Annual Title I Meeting that must be conducted separately? (It CANNOT be held in conjunction with any other meetings or activities.)

34th will conduct an Annual Title I meeting for parents of the students who participate in the program not in conjunction with any other meeting or activities.