

School Parent Involvement Plan

WASHINGTON ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

This form was adapted from, A Toolkit for Title I Parent Involvement. Ferguson, C. (2009).

A Toolkit for Title I Parental Involvement. Austin, TX: SEDL.

District

Texarkana Arkansas School District

School Improvement Status

Needs Improvement

Grade Levels

9 thru 12

Parent Involvement Coordinator

Kimberly Walker

Are you Title I School wide?

Yes

Percent of free and reduced lunch

68.7%

Parent Involvement Committee Members:

Terry Taylor, Washington Academy Charter School Principal
Kimberly Walker, Parent Involvement Coordinator and Instructor
Vanessa Wakefield, Counselor
Patricia Keener, Instructional Facilitator
Meah Wilson, College and Career Specialist
Sonya Thompson, Instructor

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

Teachers will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate their child's progress. The school provides a progress report in the middle of the nine weeks and a report card at the end of each nine weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress. Parents are able to access their child's grades through the district's on-line gradebook and a district issued log-in. The school will also use the School Messenger system to call parents and keep them informed of upcoming activities and events.

- 1. 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.)**

Parent teacher conference dates are on the district's activity calendar. The school takes initiative to engage parent's in the conferences and encourages their involvement in activities on and off campus to support learning. Parent/Teacher Conferences for the 2016-2017 school year are on: Monday, September 26, 2016 and February 13, 2017 from 1:00-7:00 p.m.. During the Parent/Teacher Conferences, teachers hold conferences in their classrooms with parents, individually, and work together to understand difficulties, celebrate accomplishments, and meet the individual needs of the student.

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

The State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts shall require 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. The school will provide a list of volunteer opportunities at the orientation meeting as well as each parent/teacher conference. The school will solicit ideas for other volunteer efforts during the orientation meeting. The school will provide parents and community members the information they need to participate as school volunteers through the Volunteers In Public Schools Program (VIPS). Volunteer sign ups are conducted at the Orientation meeting and can also found in the District Student Handbook each parent receives.

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

The School-Parent-Student-Compact will consist of a compact to inform students of their rights and responsibility to know and abide by the rules and regulations of the school. It is also necessary for parents to familiarize themselves with school regulations to eliminate misunderstandings and join in the effort to maintain a quality educational program. Parents will also be informed of the requirements and implementation of the Smart Core Curriculum. Parents will sign the Smart Core Informed Consent Form. Smart Core is Arkansas's college and career ready curriculum for high

school students. It is the foundation for college and career readiness. All stakeholders will sign the compact.

4. 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?

The school will include parents on school improvement planning committees. To support this process, the school will offer both school staff and parent trainings on how to contribute to this process in a meaningful way. The school will ask parents to volunteer and serve on curricular and instructional review committees. The school will provide parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum used by the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and proficiency levels students are expected to meet. If requested by parents, parents will be given the opportunities to meet and formulate suggestions and to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. Grade level parent meetings will be held in the spring. To take advantage of community resources, the school will continue to involve the Eight Sectors of the community which includes parents and community leaders to provide advice and guidance for school improvement.

5. How will your school provide resources for parents?

The school will provide a Parent Resource Center for parents.

Parents may check out materials housed in the center, use the computers to check their child's grades, and visit educational websites. A suggestion sheet will also be available for parental input. The school will open the resource center at hours that are convenient to parents to help their child fill out ACT packets, Financial Aide information, college and career information, and scholarship information. The College and Career Specialist is also available for scheduled conferences with parents.

To promote and support responsible parenting, the school shall purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting. The school will provide materials and information to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's academic achievement.

Information about Night Library and Credit Recovery will be sent to parents by the counselor. The school will have Parent Fairs at Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Included in the Parent/Student Handbook is the process for resolving parental concerns, including who to contact and how to develop solutions to problems.

The Parent Resource Center is open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. during school days

6. 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 Parental Involvement Program.

An annual evaluation using a comprehensive needs assessment filled out by teachers, parents, and school staff will be used to assess the program.

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

The school will ask parents to fill out Parent Interest Surveys during the Orientation, and two Parent/Teacher Conferences during the school year.

The school will use the results of the Parent Interest Surveys to improve the program, and to plan Parental Involvement Activities throughout the year and to prepare for the next school year.

8. **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.)**

The school will conduct an annual Title I meeting for parents.

The school will hold their annual Title I meeting separate from any other meetings or activities to ensure that they have ample time to provide a description/explanation of school curriculum, information on forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress and information on proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

This meeting was held on August 11, 2016, with Terry Taylor, Washington Academy Charter School Principal and Facilitator.

The agenda, sign in sheet and the minutes for the meeting must be generated separately from any other events and kept on file in the school office.