

DEWITT SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT FOR ACT 603 of 2003

The DeWitt School District realizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire time the child spends in school. It also realizes that engaging parents/caregivers is essential to improve student achievement. Although parents/caregivers are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they are an integral component of this school district's ability to provide for the educational success of our children.

The mission of the DeWitt School District, which includes DeWitt Elementary School, DeWitt Middle School, DeWitt High School, and Gillett Elementary School, is to provide an atmosphere that will enhance parental involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.

School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Parent and Family Engagement Committee Members

Paige Patterson, Library Media Specialist, Parental Involvement Coordinator

Clay Ashcraft, Principal

Laura Beth Place, Math Coach

Nancy Whiting, Teacher

Laura Cunningham, Teacher

Laney Eldridge, Parent

Renee Moss, Parent

- 1. List various communication strategies used in your school to provide additional information to parents and to increase parent and family engagement in supporting classroom instruction.**
 - a. The DeWitt High School's website is available for teachers to post homework assignments and pertinent classroom information. Also, parents can access their child's grades using E-School with a PIN number they received at the beginning of the school year. Parents may use email to communicate with members of the school staff. Staff members' email is available on the DHS website.
 - b. Teachers routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate about their child's progress.
 - c. The school provides parents with progress reports/report cards every 4.5 weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress and upcoming classroom and school events.
 - d. Social Media sites (Facebook and Instagram) are being used to better communicate with parents about upcoming school events.
 - e. The school posts notices in the school bulletin and on the district website and provides information to local newspapers about parent workshops and meetings.
 - f. Standardized test scores are handed out to parents at open house and teachers are available to help parents better understand how to read these scores.

- 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 parent and family engagement and build staff and parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts. (Must include the 2 state mandated parent/teacher conferences each year).**

- a. Meetings will include a Student Information Night. During this meeting, parents and freshmen students will discuss course selection, 4-year plans, graduation requirements, lottery scholarship, honor graduate requirements, and how to figure GPA. This meeting will occur in early spring after the 9th graders receive their first high school transcript.
- b. The school will encourage parents in the following types of roles and activities to increase their involvement and support for student learning:
 - i. Fundraisers
 - ii. Classroom speaker
 - iii. Field trip volunteers
 - iv. Open house
 - v. Parent-school organization
 - vi. Various committees
- c. Parent/Teacher Conferences are held during the day and evening to better accommodate parents. Conferences will occur on October 22, 2018 and February 25, 2019.
- d. Student Registration Night will occur in late spring. The counselor will hold meetings for students in all grade levels and their parents in order to register for classes for the upcoming school year. Course requirements as well as electives will be discussed.

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

- a. A list of volunteer opportunities and various membership forms will be included in the student information packets handed out at Open House at the beginning of each school year.
- b. Provide information to parents 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 curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education.
- c. The State Board of Education's standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts shall require no fewer than two (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?

- a. School staff, parents, and students will develop a school-parent-student compact. This compact will outline how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. All stakeholders will sign the compact.
- b. The school shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) that will foster parental and community involvement within the school.

5. How will your school provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the schoolwide 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?

- a. Selected parents will serve on the ACSIP Leadership Team for DeWitt High School. The parents on the Leadership Team will help assess and monitor the indicators of the school improvement plan to ensure academic success for students at DeWitt High School.
- b. To 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.

6. How will your school provide resources for parents?

- a. Parents may check out materials from the parental involvement shelf in the library, use the computers in the computer lab to check grades and visit educational websites.
- b. The school will distribute information packets each year during open house 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, activities planned for the current school year and information about the system that will be used to allow parents and teachers to communicate (notes, phone calls, e-mail...).

- c. To promote and support responsible parenting, the school shall, as funds are available: Purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting through the school library, advertise the current selection, and give parents the opportunity to borrow the materials for review.
- d. 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.
- e. The principal of each school in a school district shall designate one (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 parent and family engagement efforts?

- a. The school will engage parents in an evaluation of the parental involvement efforts through an annual evaluation using a comprehensive needs assessment filled out by teachers, parents, and school staff. A committee, made up of teachers, parents, and school staff, will determine the effectiveness of the parental involvement plan and make changes if warranted. While collecting evidence about satisfaction with the program and the school's 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 parent teacher conferences; (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 parent and family engagement activities that will be offered throughout the year?

- a. Sponsor seminars (such as student registration night) to inform the parents of high school students about how to be involved in the decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and preparation for postsecondary opportunities.
- b. The school will ask parents to fill out a parent interest survey during each school year to get information from parents concerning the activities they feel will be most beneficial in the efforts to support their child academically.

*This form was adapted from *A Toolkit for Title I Parent Involvement*. Ferguson, C. (2009). *A Toolkit for Parental Involvement*. Austin, TX: SEDL.