

Grace Hill Elementary
School Engagement Plan
23-24

1: Jointly Developed

Grace Hill Elementary recognizes the necessity and value of a strong home/school connection. Families, administrators, teachers, and support staff must work together as a team to support high standards for all students. Our Parent Involvement Plan is comprehensive and coordinated in nature. The plan is developed in collaboration with staff, parents, and community members.

In order to allow all parents including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children the full opportunity to participate in their child's education, Grace Hill will:

- to the extent possible-provide information in a language and format that parents understand
- provide assistance to parents of children served by the school in understanding topics such as:
 - state's academic content standards
 - state academic achievement standards
 - requirements of Title I
 - how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child
 - how to monitor their child's progress
- provide materials and training to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement
- educate staff
 - value the importance of parent contributions
 - ways in which to communicate more effectively with parents
 - how to build the appropriate ties between parents and the school
- coordinate and integrate-to the extent possible-parental involvement programs and activities with groups such as, but not limited to, Head Start, Rogers Pre-School Programs,

Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request

2: Communication

The Parental Involvement Plan is made available to parents and local community members at the beginning of each school year, during the fall parent/teacher conferences or anytime upon request. The Grace Hill Parental Involvement Plan is revisited in the spring of each school year by a committee of parents, administrators, teachers, and support staff. Should the Parental Involvement Plan be unsatisfactory to parents, parents have the opportunity to submit any comments to the school and the Grace Hill Parent Involvement Committee. To the extent possible, responses to concerns and comments will be addressed as quickly as possible.

Communication with parents is another requirement of the Parental Involvement Plan. The Grace Hill Parent Involvement Committee and Grace Hill Elementary Staff believe that in order for parent/teacher communication to be beneficial it should be open, two-way, and to the extent possible, in a language and format that the parent can understand. It is believed that only through effective communication can each child's success be assured. Parents are encouraged to call the school to speak with their child's teacher should they have any questions or concerns. Parents are also welcome to set up a time for a conference at which teachers can give their undivided attention to the parent's concerns and questions. Phone and e-mail contact information is located at the back of the Parental Involvement Plan.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are offered twice during each school year. These conferences are important times for teacher and parents to share the responsibility to make decisions concerning each child's education. During these conferences, teachers will share information concerning each child's progress towards meeting the state's high academic standards. Assessments to measure progress and the level at which proficiency is expected will also be shared during this meeting. Academic Improvement Plans will be addressed as needed. These conferences are offered at flexible times in order to accommodate as many parents as possible.

Other forms of communication available to Grace Hill parents include but are not limited to:

- Website
- Grace Hill Parent Involvement Plan
- Grace Hill Parent Information Packet

- Announcements
- Tuesday Communication Folders
- SMORE Monthly Newsletter
- Grace Hill Facebook page and Instagram
- Class Dojo Communication app

3: Building Staff Capacity

An important requirement of the Grace Hill Involvement Plan includes the component of continued staff development in the area of parent involvement. Training will be held with topics such as ways to communicate effectively with parents, methods by which parents can become more involved in the school, and how to bridge the home-school connection. It is the goal of the Grace Hill Parent Involvement Committee for professional development to provide staff with the necessary skills needed to partner with all parents in order to assure each child's academic success.

4: Building Parent Capacity

All parents are also encouraged to be aware of the many resources available to their help child. One such resource is the Internet. Parents might want to check out these valuable websites:

- Rogers Public School's Main Website: www.rogersschools.net
- Grace Hill Elementary School's Main Website: www.rogersschools.net
- Arkansas Department of Education: www.arkansased.org
- Arkansas State Parent Information and Resource Center: www.parenting-ed.org
- Parent Teacher Association: www.pta.org

Another resource available to parents is the Grace Hill FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER and we have suggestions for activities to assist parents in working with their child at home. We also have a selection of books and videos available to be checked out. Our parent facilitator, Lea Austin, will be available to help you. You are welcome to contact her at the school by calling 479.631.3670 or email at lea.austin@rpsar.net.

Parent Training Nights are another means by which parents can be active in their child's education. These trainings are offered by a variety of resources including:

- Grace Hill Elementary School
 - Parent Nights
 - Open House
 - Orientations
- Rogers School District
 - REACH Department (Gifted Education)
 - English as a Second Language Department
 - Special Education Department
- Community Groups
 - Local Support Groups (including but not limited to the Benton County Sheriff's office, Child Advocacy Center, Ozark Guidance Center, etc...)
 - Northwest Arkansas Community College

5: Coordination

At Grace Hill we welcome visiting parents and encourage parents to have lunch with their students and volunteer in classrooms. We invite and encourage parents to participate in our Parent Teacher Organization and to attend all education, information and award events. We enjoy the visits of former students who come to see the school and teachers or administrators that they remember from their time at Grace Hill. Former students reach out to volunteer in our school: reading with students and helping in the classrooms. We invite parents and community members to serve on our School Improvement Plan committee, to become involved in PTO, and to work with other Grace Hill groups. We have partnerships

with community organizations that come to our school to support students including Rogers Christian Church, Grace Hills Church, and Keypoint Church. We have a partnership with the SOAR after school program who works with our students and parents by providing a free after-school program that supports families with homework completion and student's individual academic goals. Community leaders and local businesses support Grace Hill through donations and through other special projects.

6: Annual Title I Meeting (*Title I schools*)

Another requirement of the Parental Involvement Plan is that each school hold an annual meeting for parents. The Grace Hill Annual Title I Meeting, Open House, is held in the fall of each school year. The school principal speaks during the welcoming session. Teacher sessions allow teachers the opportunity to present parent information. The topics of the Title I Annual Meeting include, but are not limited to, the following:

(As required by Act 307 of 2007)

- what students will be learning (*Quarterly Expectations, Standards Based Report Card, Power Standards*)
- how students will be assessed both at the state and local level
- what parents should expect for their child's education
- ways parents can assist in their child's education

(As required by Act 397 of 2009)

- provide instruction on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment including but not limited to:
 - monthly parent newsletters with tips for parents
 - classroom newsletters
 - PTO newsletters
 - Family Nights

- Family Resource Center
- Websites

(As required by Federal guidelines)

- Hold a school-wide Title I meeting at Grace Hill to inform parents:
 - Title I information:
 - the purpose
 - an overview
 - Parent Rights
 - Parent/School Compact
 - Parent Involvement Committee
 - Use of Parent Involvement Funds
- School Improvement Status
 - Current Test Results
 - Annual Progress Status
- strategies for parents to monitor
 - a child's progress (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
 - standards
 - academic assessments
 - Arkansas Department of Education Website
 - Rogers School District Website
 - Center for Effective Parenting
- materials and training provided as needed to assist parents to work with their children to improve academic achievement
- opportunities for parent involvement
 - homeroom parent

- field trips
- special projects
- PTA
- volunteer sign up (As required by Northside)
- Class Procedures
 - homework
 - testing
 - discipline
- other pertinent information
- identify times during the day you are available for conferences or another form of two way communication

[Text box for responses]

7: School-Parent Compact *(Title I schools)*

[The staff of Grace Hill Elementary School believes that high student academic achievement is a shared responsibility of our staff as well as parents of our students. In order to show that shared responsibility, Grace Hill Elementary School in conjunction with the Grace Hill Parent/Teacher Organization consisting of parents of students participating in the Title I program developed a School-Parent Compact that is reviewed annually. This Compact identifies the activities of the parents, entire school staff, and the students of Grace Hill Elementary School to develop a partnership to help our students achieve the state's high academic standards. Because Grace Hill Elementary School understands that language issues may be a barrier to parent involvement, the Grace Hill Parent School Compact is available in both English and Spanish.

The Grace Hill Elementary School-Parent Compact describes

- the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment that supports students in our school to meet the state's academic achievement standards;

- how parents can be responsible for supporting their child’s learning;
- the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an on-going basis through
 - parent-teacher conferences two times a year
 - student progress reports to parents
 - reasonable access to staff
 - opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child’s class
 - observation of classroom activities

Text box for responses]

8: Reservation of Funds *(Title I schools)*

Grace Hill Elementary School is a Title 1 School, and as such, receives Title 1 funds each school year for the purposes of supporting parent and family engagement. Each year, we hold a meeting in the Spring with stakeholders to review our parent involvement plan and to get feedback about how this money will be spent. Currently, this money helps pay for our Tuesday communication folders, our parent digital newsletter called SMORE, parent involvement nights, and materials and resources for parent involvement nights.

Assurances

Please read the following statements closely. By checking these boxes, the School understands the legal requirements and will meet them accordingly.

√A.1: The School understands that annually by August 1, the public School’s Engagement Plan shall be developed, or reviewed and updated.

[ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.3]

√A.2: The School understands that the following must be made available to families and the local community on the School or District website no later than August 1st:

- The School Engagement Plan
- A parent-friendly explanation of the School and District’s Engagement Plan-
- The informational packet
- Contact information for the parent facilitator designated by the School.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.4]

√A.3: The School understands that a parent-friendly summary/explanation of the Engagement Plan should be included in the current student handbook.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02]

VA.4: The School understands its obligation for ensuring professional development requirements related to parent and family engagement are met and that records are maintained accordingly. (2 hours every 4 years with 2022 being a required year)

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1703(a); A.C.A. § 6-17-709; Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts July 2020 Standard 4-G.1 Professional Development (D/C)]

VA.5: The School understands its obligation to obtain signatures for each parent acknowledging receipt of the District's Engagement Plan summary/explanation.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a)(3)(B)]

VA.6: The School Principal understands their obligation to designate and pay a licensed staff member to serve as Parent Facilitator:

- to help organize meaningful training for staff and parents,
- to promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere, and
- to undertake efforts to ensure that engagement is recognized as an asset to the School.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(c)(1)]

VA.7: The School understands its obligation to incorporate the Engagement Plan into the School Improvement Plan.

[ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.2]

VA.8: The School understands its obligation to schedule regular parent involvement meetings at which parents are given a report on the state of the School and an overview of:

- What students will be learning
- How students will be assessed
- What a parent should expect for his or her child's education
- How a parent can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(5)(B)(i)(a-d)]

VA.9: Any School serving high school students understands its obligation to educate parents about their role in decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and preparation for postsecondary opportunities.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(7)(B)(ii)]

VA.10: The School understands its obligation to welcome parents into the School, and more specifically, not have any school policies or procedures that would discourage a parent from visiting the School or from visiting a child's classrooms.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(6)(B)]

VA.11: The School understands its obligation to reserve at least 1 percent of its Title I, Part A allocation for engagement purposes should such total allocation amount to \$500,000 or more. Nothing limits LEAs from reserving more than 1 percent of its allocation for engagement purposes.

[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(A)]

VA.12: The School understands that all Title I, Part A funded engagement activities and strategies should remain consistent with all information set forth in this parent and family engagement plan.

[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(D)]

VA.13: The School understands its obligation to submit to the State any comments from parents who deem the Title I Schoolwide Plan unsatisfactory. These comments can be sent to ade.engagementmatters@ade.arkansas.gov

[ESSA § 1116(b)(4)]

VA.14: The School understands its obligation, if requested by parents, to provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

[ESSA § 1116(c)(4)(C)]

References

State

- [Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1701 et seq.](#)
- [Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement](#)

Federal

- [Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act, 114 P.L. 95, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6312, 6318, 6320](#)

School Name:	Grace Hill Elementary
School Engagement Facilitator Name:	Lea Austin
Plan Revision/Submission Date:	5-12-23
District Level Reviewer Name, Title:	Melody Sebastian
District Level Approval Date:	5/17/23

Committee Members, Role

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

First Name	Last Name	Role <i>(Teacher, Staff, Parent, Student, or Community Member)</i>
Christina	Meister	Principal
Lea	Austin	Counselor
Samantha	Echols	PTO President
Ashley	Hutchins	PTO Treasurer
Katie	Williams	PTO Board Member
Hunter	Inett	Parent
Dora	Nerio	Parent
Mayra	Hernandez	Parent
Sue	Jordan	Teacher

(Find additional guidance on the [DESE Parent and Family Engagement Requirements](#) webpage. For any questions about completing this form or meeting legal compliance, please contact the DESE Engagement Unit at ade.engagementmatters@ade.arkansas.gov or 501-371-8051.)