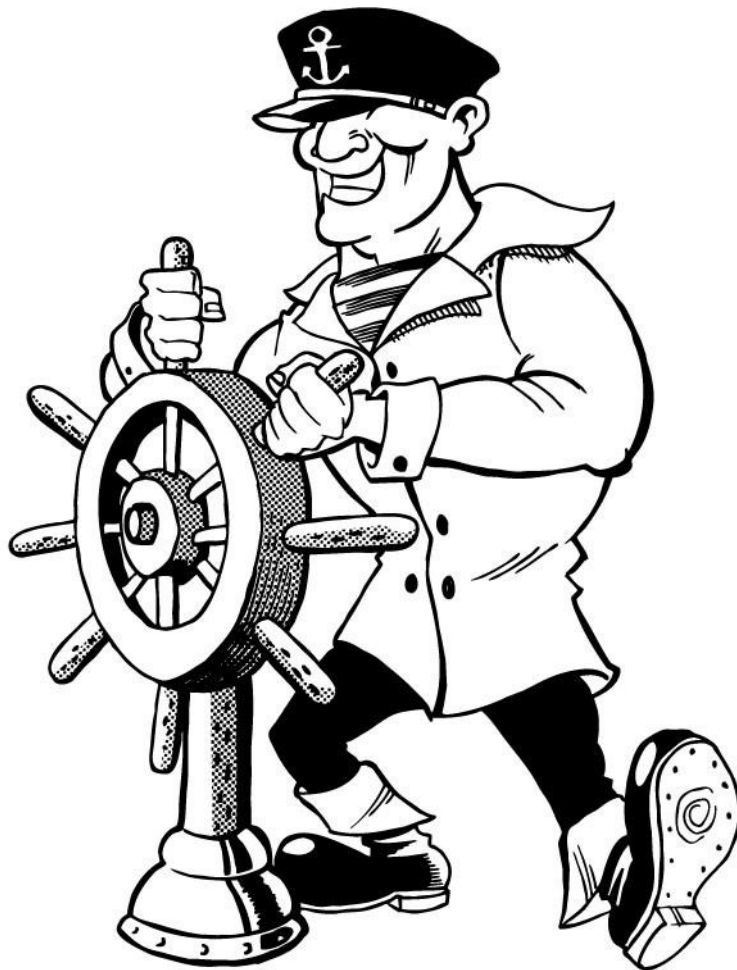


Mathias Elementary School

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2023-2024



Charting the Course for the Future...
Where ALL belong, ALL learn, and ALL succeed.

Mathias Elementary

1609 N 24th Street Rogers, AR 72756

Ph: (479)631-3530 Fax: (479)202-9098

<http://www.rogersschools.net>

1. Jointly Developed

Mathias 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 and specific academic improvement needs for all students. Our Parent and Family Engagement Plan is comprehensive and coordinated in nature. The program involves parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles that addresses the needs of the students and families. Mathias Elementary School and parents jointly developed this written school Parent and Family Engagement policy that describes how the school will carry out the Parent and Family Engagement requirements, including the development of a school-parent compact.

The school endeavors to meet the diverse cultural and language needs of parents and children. Meetings are offered at flexible times such as in the morning or the evening. Information is shared in a timely manner and to the extent possible in a language the family can understand concerning curriculum descriptions and explanation, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet, and opportunities for regular meetings at which parents can suggest and participate in the decisions relating to their child's education.

2. Communication

The Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Committee and Mathias Elementary Staff believe that in order for parent/teacher communication to be beneficial, it should be open and two-way. Mathias Elementary's Parent and Family Engagement Plan and information packet will be made available on the school website and distributed in September 2022. Topics included in the packet will include a description of the engagement program, recommended roles for parents, students, teachers, and the school, ways for a family to get involved, a survey regarding volunteer interests related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be provided, to the extent possible, in a language and format that the parent can understand, via informational packet and summary.

Other forms of communication available to Mathias parents include but are not limited to : Classroom Newsletters, School Newsletters, Website, Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan, Mathias Student Handbook, Announcements, Marquee, ParentLink Automated Phone Messaging System, and CHART Nightly/Weekly Notebooks.

Additionally, we will offer meetings at a variety of times and in different formats. Parents are encouraged to call the school to speak with their child's teacher should they have any questions or concerns. Parents are also welcomed 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 Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Parent/Teacher Conferences are offered twice during each school year. During these conferences, teachers will share information concerning each child's progress towards meeting the State's high academic standards and address any specific academic needs their child may have. Assessments to measure progress and the level at which proficiency is expected will also be shared during this meeting. Intensive Reading Improvement Plans will be addressed as needed. These conferences are offered at flexible times in order to accommodate as many parents as possible.

3. Building Staff Capacity

An important requirement of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan includes the component of continued staff development in the area of Parent and Family Engagement. Annual training will be held with topics such as the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to implement and coordinate parents programs and build ties between home and the school, how to respond to parent requests for parents and family engagement activities, that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning, how to welcome parents into the school and seek parental support and assistance and the school's process for resolving parent concerns. It is the goal of the Mathias Parent and Family Engagement 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

Another requirement of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan is that each school hold an annual Title 1 meeting for parents. The Mathias Annual Title 1 Meeting, Open House, is held in the fall of each school year. The school principal and PTO President speak 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, the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards students are expected to meet (as required by ESSA 1116©(4)(B)), what parents should expect for their child's education, and ways parents can assist in their child's education, (as required by Act 397 of 2009).

During parent teacher conferences and math/literacy night, teachers go over several ways that parents can build their capacity to play a role in their children's academic success. These include a description and explanation of the curriculum used that school year, the forms of State and Local academic assessments used to measure student progress, including alternate assessments, achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards students are expected to meet, and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. They also use this time to help parents in technology and literacy training.

Mathias provides opportunities for parents of students at all grade levels to become involved in a variety of roles such as, but not limited to, becoming a homeroom parent, chaperoning field trips, being part of the PTA, involvement in their child's education, learning activities and support classroom instruction, participation in School decisions, collaboration with the community, development of School goals and priorities, evaluating the effectiveness of the School-level Improvement Plan, [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(1); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.03]

As funds are available, Mathias will promote and support responsible parenting. Mathias will purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting through the school library, advertise the current selection, and give parents an opportunity to borrow the materials for review. Another resource available to parents is the Mathias Family Resource Center. We have instructional materials designed to assist parents in working with their child at home. We also have a large selection of informational materials concerning common developmental topics and other programs available to Mathias parents such as Head Start and HIPPIY. Pamphlets and other informational fliers are available in the office. Please feel free to visit this collection for helpful information. Our parent facilitator, Kim Dixon, will be available to help you in any way necessary. You are welcome to contact her at the school by calling 479-631-3530 or via e-mail at kim.dixon@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: Grade Level Parent Nights with a focus on Literacy and/or Math, Open House, and Orientations. The Rogers School District also offers opportunities through the REACH Department, English as a Second Language Department, and the Special Education Department. There are several community groups that offer a variety of parent information including Jones Center, Center for Effective Parenting, Local Support Groups, and Northwest Arkansas Community College.

Mathias will provide instruction to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation: role play and demonstration by trained volunteers, the use of and access to Department of Education website tools for parents [<http://www.arkansased.gov>], assistance with nutritional meal planning[A.C.A. §6-15-1702(b)(5)(B)(ii)(a-d)].

5. Coordination

Mathias Elementary School will coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, Parent and Family Engagement programs and activities with the HIPPIY program and the Rogers preschool. Community partnerships are formed to assist in the programs of the school. State Farm, Samaritan House, Walmart Foundation, and Lowell/Rogers Chamber of Commerce are a few local businesses that support Mathias. Mathias Elementary also partners with numerous restaurants in the Rogers area for fundraising opportunities for Spirit Nights.

6. Annual Title I Meeting

An annual meeting will be held in September 2023 to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs and explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in those programs. Parents will be provided with timely information about what students will be learning; how students will be assessed; what parents should expect for their child's education; and how a parent can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education.

7. School-Parent Compact

In order to show that shared responsibility, Mathias Elementary School, in conjunction with the Mathias Parent/Teacher Organization (consisting of parents of students participating in the Title 1 program), develop a School-Parent Compact that is reviewed annually. The School-Parent Compact describes the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment that enables children served under Title I, Part A to meet the State's academic achievement standards. The School-Parent Compact describes ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting the child's learning, volunteering in the child's classroom and school, participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of the child, and positive use of extra-curricular time. The School-Parent Compact describes the importance of a partnership between teachers and parents. It is on-going through parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents on the child's progress, and reasonable access to staff. The School-Parent Compact describes opportunities to volunteer and participate in the child's class and school activities in a variety of roles. Parents are able to access the compact in order to understand the shared responsibility for improved student academic achievement at the beginning of the school year and during the fall 2023 parent teacher conference. It can also be found online under the state required information tab on our district website and also at this link [Mathias Parent School Compact](#).

8. Reservation of Funds

Parent and Family Engagement funds will be used to: increase involvement of parents and community members, increase parental awareness of grade-level expectations, foster parents' responsibility and support for their child's learning including, provide frequent communication with parents on their child's progress, address specific academic needs as identified in the SLIP, provide opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate, provide assistance to parents in such areas as parenting skills, homework, communication with teachers, etc., provide flexible conference times to accommodate working parents, and inform parents of available community resources.

Mathias Elementary will involve parents and family members in the decisions regarding how reserved funds are allotted for parent and family engagement activities through surveys and meetings.

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]
- A.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)]
- A.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)]
- A.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)]
- A.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]
- A.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)]
- A.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)]
- A.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)]
- A.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.

√**A.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)]

√**A.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)]

√**A.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:	Joe Mathias
School Engagement Facilitator Name:	Korienne Toney
Plan Revision/Submission Date:	April 4, 2023
District Level Reviewer Name, Title:	Melody Sebastian – Fed. Prog. Director
District Level Approval Date:	May 17, 2023

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>
Korienne	Toney	Principal
Cassie	Cartwright	Assistant Principal
Alexandra	Carillo	Parent
Bianca	Lederma	Parent
Kim	Dixon	Counselor
Dave	Olagre	Parent
Lisa	Kirkwold	Teacher
Cecilia	Alvarez	Staff/parent

(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.)