Northside High School (Fort Smith School District)
2301 North B. St
Fort Smith AR 72901
479-783-1171

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2026-2027

Please read over the form closely, being sure to address all guiding questions. Note the Assurances section allows you to confirm practices that are required but do not need further elaboration within the written portion of your plan. In the response fields, you may include links to additional information that can help support your story as you answer the guiding questions.

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

Describe how the School works with parents and families to develop and review relevant plans, policies, and strategies related to engagement.

Guiding Questions

- ***1.1:*** *How does the School - in collaboration with parents - establish an engagement plan that reflects the specific academic improvement needs of the School, and that includes programs and practices that enhance engagement and address the specific engagement needs of students and their families?*
  [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(a)]
- ***1.2:*** *What efforts have been made to ensure adequate representation of parents and families of participating children in the process (Title I families)?*
  [ESSA § 1116(c)(3)]

-STATE REQUIREMENT – 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.

-STATE REQUIREMENT - The school shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association or organization that will foster parental and community involvement within the school.

-Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with parental involvement strategies under other programs, such as the Head Start Program, Reading First Program, Early Reading First Program, Even Start Program, Parents as Teachers Program and, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and state-run preschool programs.

-The school will engage parents in the annual evaluation of the parent involvement program through parent surveys, and conversations with parents, teachers, and students.

- Data collected as a result of parent participation in school events, including parent-teacher conferences and various parent nights held throughout the year, will be used to evaluate the school's parental involvement.

- The Parent Involvement Committee will determine the effectiveness of the Parental Improvement Plan and make changes, if needed.

- Suggestions and recommendations from parents and teachers which are collected from surveys distributed via our digital newsletter, Northside's website, Naviance, and others, will be considered to increase parent involvement endeavors.

STATE REQUIREMENT – Sponsor seminars to inform the parents of high school students about how to be involved in the decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and preparation for post-secondary opportunities.

2: Communication

Describe how the School will communicate with and distribute information to parents and families.

Guiding Questions

- ***2.1:*** *How does the School distribute an informational packet appropriate for the age and grade of each child annually, ensuring to include:*
  - *description of the engagement program*
  - *recommended roles for parents, students, teacher, and the School*
  - *ways for a family to get involved*
  - *survey regarding volunteer interests*
  - *schedule of activities planned throughout the school year*
  - *regular, two-way, and meaningful system for parents/teachers to communicate*

    [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(3)(B)(1)]
- ***2.2:*** *How will the School ensure information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is provided to parents in a format and in a language that parents can understand (to the extent practicable)?*
  - *How is relevant information provided in a variety of ways? (For example, paper copies made available, as well as social media posts, website links, parent apps, etc.?*

    [ESSA § 1116(e)(5)]
- ***2.3:*** *How does the School offer flexible opportunities for meetings with families?*

  [ESSA § 1116(c)(2)]

Northside High School website is www.fortsmithschools.org/northside

Teacher email addresses may be accessed through the NHS website

Teachers use various communication tools: Schoology, Naviance, and Gmail, and Google text, and Connect Ed call system.

The school will distribute a quarterly newsletter 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.

Northside's Attendance Office sends daily calls to parents when a student is unexcused. Parents can then reach out to the school for more details in regards to their student's attendance.

Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube live or on-demand)

Counseling Center may be accessed through the NHS website

School handbook, school calendar, school newspaper, course syllabus resources are sent home with each student.

Home Access Center (HAC/gradebook) for parents to view students' academic progress and Schoology

Bilingual parent liaisons

Two parent teacher conferences (Fall-Spring)

Four PTSA meetings open to all parents, teachers, students, administrators

An Open House will be scheduled in (August 2026) to inform parents of general school procedures and guidelines, student schedules, and how to communicate with teachers.

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held in October. Parents are encouraged to meet with their students' teachers for academic progress and to schedule formal meetings as needed. Report cards are distributed. Counselors' and translators will be available. PTSA will be involved with providing opportunities for membership and spirit items to purchase.

Senior Parent Night will be scheduled in September - Parents and senior students will learn how to access their Naviance account to search for scholarships, FAFSA, ACT and other vital information necessary for their college and career planning.

Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held in March. Third quarter progress reports will be available. Parents will review and sign for their students, schedule for the following year and make changes. Counselors and translators are available.

Cafecitos – These are small-group meetings for our Hispanic parents that are conducted in their native language. These meetings cover general information about school and also about post-secondary opportunities for our students.

Rising Seniors night will be held in April. Counselors will provide information to parents and students in the 11th grade to plan their senior year.

Rising Freshmen night will be held in April. Parents and students in 8th grade will be invited to Northside for an orientation night. Information about expectation and general information will be provided to assist our incoming freshmen in their transition to high school.

3: Building Staff Capacity

Describe activities that will be used with School staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners.

Guiding Questions
3.1 ***:*** *How does the School build staff capacity to work with parents as equal partners? This may include workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, and online resources that will be used to ensure ALL School staff (including teachers, specialized instructional personnel, principals, and other School leaders) are aware of:*

- *the value and utility of contributions of parents [Title I schools]*
- *how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners [Title I schools]*
- *how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between home and the School [Title I schools]*
- *how to respond to parent requests for parent and family engagement activities [Title I schools]*
- *that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning [all schools]*
- *how to welcome parents into the School and seek parental support and assistance [all schools]*
- *the School's process for resolving parent concerns as outlined in the School handbook, including how to define a problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions [all schools]*

[ESSA § 1116(e)(3;14); A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(5-7)]

- Northside teachers have access to I.D.E.A.S. website which is our state online professional development website. IDEAS include courses related to parent and family engagement. Some of these courses are:

PIB18054 is "Family and Community Engagement: Inviting Caregivers and Community Partners into School"

PIG16079 is "The Arkansas Guide for Promoting Family Engagement through Age Eight"

PIC14447 is "The Six Components of Parental Involvement for Teachers"

- Parents who have concerns about the school and/or their student's education can request a conference with the classroom teacher to try to address solutions. If a solution is not forthcoming, the parent should request a conference with the building principal or assistant principal to work toward a solution.

4: Building Parent Capacity

Describe how the School provides opportunities to build parents' capacity to play a role in their children's academic success. This may include conducting workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings or providing equipment or other materials.

Guiding Questions

- ***4.1:*** *How does the School provide timely information about the following:*
  - *a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the School*
  - *the forms of State and Local academic assessments used to measure student progress, including alternate assessments*
  - *the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards students are expected to meet*

    [ESSA § 1116(c)(4)(B)]
- ***4.2:*** *How does the School provide assistance to parents in understanding the following:*
  - *the requirements of Title I, Part A*
  - *how to monitor their child's progress*
  - *how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. [ESSA § 1116(e)(1)]*
- ***4.3:*** *What types of materials and training does the School provide to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement? This may include:*
  - *literacy training*
  - *technology training, including education about copyright piracy and safe practices*
  - *resources that describe or assist with the child's curriculum*
  - *other activities such as workshops, conferences, online resources like tutorials or webinars, and any equipment or other materials, including parent resource centers*

    [ESSA § 1116(e)(2)]
- ***4.4:*** *Involve parents of students at all grade levels in a variety of roles, including without limitation:*
  - *involvement in the education of their children*
  - *volunteer activities*
  - *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]
- ***4.5:*** *How does the School promote and support responsible parenting? The School shall, as funds are available:*
  - *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*
  - *Create parent centers*
- ***4.6:*** *How does the School provide instruction to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation:*
  - *the use of and access to Department of Education website tools for parents [https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov]*
  - *assistance with nutritional meal planning [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(5)(B)(ii)(a-d)]*

Northside High School website is www.fortsmithschools.org/northside

Teacher email addresses may be accessed through the NHS website

Teachers use various communication tools: Google Classroom, Schoology, Google text

The school will distribute a quarterly newsletter 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.

Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube live or on-demand)

School handbook, school calendar, course syllabus resources are sent home with each student Home Access Center

(HAC/gradebook) for parents to view students' academic progress

Bilingual parent liaisons

Two parent teacher conferences (Fall-Spring)

Four PTSA meetings open to all parents, teachers, students, administrators

Northside provides a paper list of volunteer opportunities in the registration packet that goes home each year with every student

PTSA offers sign up opportunities on their Facebook and twitter pages

Athletic and music Booster clubs provide volunteer opportunities

STATE REQUIREMENT – 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 curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education.

STATE REQUIREMENT (Staff Development) 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

STATE REQUIREMENT - The school will distributed 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 (notes, phone calls, e-mail…).

STATE REQUIREMENT - 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.

STATE REQUIREMENT – 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.

STATE REQUIREMENT – The principal of each school in a school district shall designate (1) certified staff member who is willing to serve as a parent facilitator.

Northside's website provides a digital parent resource center.

Northside's media center provides online reading resources which parents have access to and learn about their student's reading and interests.

Northside's social worker will may home visits and provide parents with available resources based on circumstance and need.

5: Coordination

Describe how the School will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners, including alumni, to provide additional support, services, and resources to families..

Guiding Questions

- ***5.1:*** *How does the School investigate and utilize community resources in the instructional program? [ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 5.06]*
- ***5.2:*** *How does the School coordinate and integrate programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs? Some examples include:*
    - *public preschool programs such as Head Start*
    - *organizations/activities to help students transition to high school postsecondary schools or careers*

- *wraparound services that allow families to send their children to school ready and able to focus on learning*

[ESSA §1116(e)(4)]

- ***5.3:*** *In what ways does the School enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association or organization and ensure leaders of said organization will be included in appropriate decisions?*

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(8)(B)(ii)]

- The Parent and Family Engagement committee will meet with the PTSA to coordinate volunteer opportunities for our parents and collaborate on ways to disseminate information to parents.

- The Fort Smith Library shares their resources with Northside's Media Center and its staff on programs that supplement our students' learning opportunities.

- Collaboration with Western Arkansas Counseling Guidance Center to provide mental health support and services to students and their families.

- The athletic department at Northside hosts parent nights for various sports to provide support to all athletes and their parents. The format of these parent nights will be determined as the time gets closer.

- Various churches from our community provide food to our students' families.

- The Children's League provides resources to families for clothing and hygiene products.

- Northside High School has strong relationships with local businesses through our Partners in Education program.

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

Describe the details regarding the Annual Title I meeting used to inform parents of the requirements of Title I, the School's participation, and the parents' rights to be involved.

Guiding Questions

- ***6.1:*** *How and when (month/year) does the School conduct the Annual Title I meeting, ensuring that parents are informed of the following? (*Include a link to the detailed agenda, meeting minutes, and/or slide deck for this year's Annual Title I Meeting, if available.)*
  - *the requirements of Title I and the School's participation*
  - *the parents' rights under Title I (The Right to Know Teacher Qualifications, Right to Request Meetings)*

[ESSA § 1116(c)(1)]

Northside High School will hold its annual Tittle 1 meeting in August 2026 to inform the parents of current and incoming students of the school's participation in the Title 1 program which ensures that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education.

This meeting also informs parents of ways in which they can be involved and how to access the school's Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

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

Describe the process School will follow to jointly develop with parents a School-Parent Compact as required under Title I, Part A.

Guiding Questions

- ***7.1:*** *How does the School jointly develop a School-Parent Compact which does the following:*
  - *Outlines how parents, the entire School staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement*
  - *Addresses the importance of regular two-way, meaningful communication through:*
    - *conferences (no fewer than 2 each year)*
    - *frequent reports on progress*

        - *reasonable access to staff*
        - *opportunities to volunteer*
        - *observation of classroom activities [ESSA § 1116(d)]*
- ***7.2:*** *How do families access the compact in order to understand the shared responsibility for improved student academic achievement?*
    - *Including parent-teacher conferences in elementary Schools, at least annually*
    - *Include a link or insert the language of the compact to demonstrate this requirement has been met.*

[ESSA § 1116(d)(2)(A)]

School staff, parents, and students will develop a school-parent-student compact which will outline how parents, teachers and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement. The school and parents will build a partnership to help students achieve the state's high academic standards. All stakeholders will sign the compact which is located in the Student Handbook.

Handbooks are distributed to every student at the beginning of school and signatures are required and returned

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

Describe how the School uses Title I, Part A funds set-aside for parent and family engagement programs and activities.

Guiding Questions

- ***8.1:*** *If the School is a recipient of set aside funds for parent and family engagement (as part of receiving a Title I, Part A allocation greater than $500,000):*
    - *How is the School spending those funds?*
    - *How does the School determine the priority of how funds are spent?*
    - *Who is involved in determining that? [ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(A)]*
- ***8.2:*** *How does the School provide opportunities for parents and family members to be involved in providing input into how the funds are used?*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(B); ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(C); ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(D)(i-v)]

Northside's Parent Involvement Committee will meet with Northside's PTSA board members to gather input and suggestions on activities, programs, and resources that could be beneficial to our students and parents. Data collected from parent surveys, and conversations with parents, teachers, and students will also be used to determine how to spend Title 1 allocations for parental involvement.

Funds are used to purchase educational materials to use during all of our parent nights.

School Information

School Name:	Northside High School
School Engagement Facilitator Name:	Karen Vicens
Plan Revision/Submission Date:	
District Level Reviewer Name, Title:	Caroline Neel, Director of Federal Programs & Strategic Initiatives
District Level Approval Date:	

Committee Members, Role

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

First Name	Last Name	Role *(Teacher, Staff, Parent, Student, or Community Member)*
Marshal	Hurst	Staff
Karen	Vicens	Staff
Aimee	Brinkley	Parent
Jennifer	McKinney	Parent
James	Schneider	Staff