

Lincoln Junior High School 2026-2027 - Bentonville Schools Engagement Plan

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

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)]

This Parent and Family Engagement Plan is a living document that will be reviewed and updated annually. The LJHS plan was developed with input from stakeholders with the intention of increasing family engagement for the success of each student at Lincoln Junior High School. The committee will utilize results from the previous year's parent survey and student data to address the needs of students and their families. To promote student learning, the school will offer support to parents by providing resources to improve parenting techniques and skills:

1. LJHS will promote and make available resources encouraging and supporting responsible, positive parenting. Resource brochures are available at the school. Parents can also visit the Parent Resource Link on the LJHS website to view resources.
2. LJHS will prepare and distribute information through Back-to-School Advisory Lessons and provide online information found on the LJHS website for students in grades 7-8 that include the following:
 - a. The school's parental involvement program.
 - b. The recommended role of the parent, student, teacher, and school.
 - c. Ways for parents to become involved in the school and their child's education.
 - d. Activities planned throughout the school year to encourage parental involvement.
 - e. A system to allow parents to communicate in a regular, two-way, meaningful manner with the child's teacher and the school's administrative staff.

- f. An online student handbook that includes the recommended role of the parents, teachers, students, and school.
 - g. Volunteer opportunities for parents. Most are coordinated by PTO.
 - h. Information regarding PTO that include events, volunteer opportunities, and an application for membership.
 - i. School webpage address
 - j. Anti-bullying policy
3. District social workers will assist and support families.
4. Plan and engage in other activities determined by the school to be beneficial to promoting and supporting parenting skills.
- a. School employees will recognize that there are a variety of parenting traditions and practices within the community's cultural and religious diversity.
 - b. Staff members will be encouraged to demonstrate respect for families and the family's primary role in the rearing of children to become responsible adults.
 - c. LJHS also encourages parents to attend virtual and in-person district and community presentations advertised through announcements and email.
5. The principal of LJHS will designate one certified staff member willing to serve as a parent Facilitator: Cynthia Cochran, 8th Grade Counselor and Shannon Finer, 7th Grade Counselor.

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)(i)]
- **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)]

To encourage communication with parents, the school will schedule no less than two parent/teacher conferences per school year.

1. Conferences will be held throughout the year on September 22, 2026 @ 3:50 pm-7:30 pm; September 29, 2026 @ 3:50pm-7:25pm; November 10, 2026 @ 3:50 pm-7:30 pm; March 09, 2027 @ 3:50m-7:25pm.
2. LJHS will provide support services and follow-up conferences as needed with individual families. LJHS administration highly encourages immediate contact between parents and teachers when concerns arise. Likewise, teachers will notify parents of positive interactions and work by the student witnessed by the teacher.
3. Provide clear information regarding course expectations and offerings, student placement, school activities, student services, and optional programs.
 - a. All families will be provided with an online course description guide for their grade level.
4. Send report cards and make available regular academic update reports available to parents on the Home Access Center. Provide support services and follow-up conferences as needed.
 - a. Interim reports will be available online through Home Access Center every three weeks.
 - b. Report cards will be sent to parents at the end of each grading period in October 2026, December 2026, March 2026, and May 2027.
5. Disseminate information on school policies, discipline procedures, assessment tools, and school goals. Include parents in any related decision-making process.
 - a. School goals will be reported by the principal to parents.
 - b. Families can access the Student handbook on the LJHS website.
6. Translate communications to assist non-English speaking parents and families when requested.
7. Teachers will maintain a google classroom. Teachers may also communicate with parents via School Status Connect regarding classroom instruction and assignments so that parents may take an active role in their child's education.
8. Provide opportunities for parents to communicate with principals and other administrative staff.
 - a. Email, phone calls, School Status Connect, conferences, letters, and open house.
9. Promote informal activities at which parents, staff, and community members can interact.
 - a. Attendance at school sponsored events such as fine arts performances, sporting events, and district sponsored events.

b. Charity Cup

c. PTO Meetings: Third Thursday of every month (Could change due to testing, holidays, etc.) PTO Meeting Dates: First Thursday of Every Month at 9 am

10. Provide staff development regarding effective communication techniques and the importance of regular two-way communication between the school and the family.

11. Parents receive weekly announcements through School Status Connect. The school may also provide information via additional communication channels such as the LJHS website.

12. LJHS receives Title 1 funds. Title 1 funds are utilized to provide enrichment and promote growth for 7th and 8th-grade students.

13. The school may plan and engage in other activities determined by the school to be beneficial to encourage communication with parents.

a. Host welcome to LJHS programs for new students. (Fall and Spring)

b. Host "Back to School Open House" so that students can familiarize themselves with the Building; scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2026 @ 4:00pm - 6:00pm

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); A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(5-7); A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(3)(B(ii))]

LJHS will plan and engage in other activities determined by the school to be beneficial to promoting and supporting staff capacity to engage with parents as equal partners.

1. School employees will recognize that there are a variety of parenting traditions and practices within the community's cultural and religious diversity.
2. Staff members will be encouraged to demonstrate respect for families and the family's primary role in the rearing of children to become responsible adults.

To encourage communication with parents, the school will schedule no less than two parent/teacher conferences per school year.

1. Conferences will be held throughout the year on September 22, 2026 @ 3:50pm-7:30pm; September 29, 2026 @ 3:50pm-7:25pm; November 10, 2025 @ 3:50pm-7:30pm; March 09, 2027 @ 3:50pm-7:30pm.
2. LJHS will provide support services and follow-up conferences as needed with individual families. LJHS administration highly encourages immediate contact between parents and teachers when concerns arise. Likewise, teachers will notify parents of positive interactions and work by the student witnessed by the teacher.
3. Provide clear information regarding course expectations and offerings, student placement, school activities, student services, and optional programs.
 - a. All families will be provided with an online course description guide for their grade level.
4. Send report cards and make available regular academic update reports available to parents on the Home Access Center. Provide support services and follow-up conferences as needed.
 - a. Interim reports will be available online through Home Access Center every three weeks.
 - b. Report cards will be sent to parents at the end of each grading period.
5. Teachers will maintain a webpage or google classroom website. Teachers may also send out mass communication emails to parents regarding classroom instruction and assignments so that parents may take an active role in their child's education.
6. Promote informal activities at which parents, staff, and community members can interact.
 - a. Meet the Open House scheduled on August, 10, 2026
 - b. Charity Cup scheduled for the last week of October 2026
 - c. PTO Meetings: PTO Meeting Dates: Third Thursday of Every Month at 9 am
 - d. JH District Wide Parent & Teacher Book Study & In-Person Discussion Forum; 2026-2027 Dates/Times/Books TBD; plan will be updated accordingly
7. Provide staff development regarding effective communication techniques and the importance of regular two-way communication between the school and the family.

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*
[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(4)(A)]

- **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:*
 - *role play and demonstration by trained volunteers*
 - *the use of and access to Division of Elementary and Secondary 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)]

To encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect their child and family, the school shall:

1. Publish the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions.
2. Inform parents how to be involved in the decisions affecting course selections, career planning, and preparation for post-secondary opportunities.
 - a. Parents are active partners in the annual SSP (Student Success Plan) Conferences where students discuss their career goals and select classes for the next school year. Cynthia Cochran and Shannon Finer will schedule course selection presentations in January - February 2027 for students and parents, as well as virtual and in-person meetings for SSP planning in March 2027. During SSP planning, parents receive course request forms, athletic try-out dates and coach contact information, as well as the Bentonville Schools course catalog. Junior high counselors will also visit middle school campuses to present the course selection to middle school students.
3. Form a parental committee to share ideas, needs, and desires for the school. Suggestions will be presented to the administrative team.
4. Treat parent concerns with respect and demonstrate a genuine interest in developing solutions.
5. Engage in other activities that the school determines will encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect his or her child and family.

5: Coordination

Describe how the School will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners, including alumni, to provide additional supports, 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 elementary, middle, high, and 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)]

To take advantage of community resources, the school shall:

1. LJHS will participate in an annual school-wide community service activity to support a designated local charity drive. Charity Cup: October 2026.
2. LJHS will develop partnerships with local business and industry partners during the school year through programs such as Pathful, Elev8, and the 8th grade student job shadow opportunities in the community. Career teachers explain the process to 8th grade students.
3. LJHS will partner with Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, The Armory, and the University of Arkansas and other local businesses for meaningful learning experiences throughout the year.
4. Engage in other activities that the school determines will use community resources to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.
 - a. Student organizations with the assistance of parents and teachers will provide service to non-profit agencies in the community.
 - b. Develop partnerships with local businesses and service groups.
 - c. Provide a list of resources when needed to parents at any time.
5. LJHS will respond to the educational and personal success challenges military-connected children face during their transition to a new school and keep them on track to be college, workforce, and life-ready. Also, we will coordinate any additional services needed with the district and/or state military liaison.

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)]

1. LJHS will host our annual Title I meeting in the Fall. At this meeting we will discuss:
 - a. the requirements of Title I and the School's participation
 - b. the parents' rights under Title I (The Right to Know Teacher Qualifications, Right to Request Meetings)
 - c. ASCA Advisory Council Data & Information

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)]

LJHS will meet with all necessary stakeholders to develop a School-Parent Compact. The School-Parent Compact will outline the roles of parents, students, and school staff to improve academic achievement.

1. Conferences will be held throughout the year on September 22, 2026 @ 3:50pm-7:30pm; September 29, 2026 @ 3:50pm-7:25pm; November 10, 2026 @ 3:50pm-7:30pm; March 09, 2027 @ 3:50m-7:25pm.
2. LJHS will provide support services and follow-up conferences as needed with individual families. LJHS administration highly encourages immediate contact between parents and teachers when concerns arise. Likewise, teachers will notify parents of positive interactions and work by the student witnessed by the teacher. Parents can email their child's teacher at any time, or they can call and schedule an appointment to meet with the teacher. Please allow 24 hours for e-mail replies from teachers during the workweek. Teachers have a prep time each day in which the can communicate with parents via phone, email, or scheduled meetings.
3. LJHS will update progress reports in Home Access Center every 3 weeks and report cards quarterly. Parents are invited to campus during the school year to participate in learning walks with the administration. Parents will have the opportunity to visit classrooms and discuss their observations.
4. Parents will be able to participate in volunteer activities. Teachers, under the supervision of the school administration will communicate opportunities for parents to volunteer.

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)]

LJHS receives Title I funding. The funding is used to pay the salary of an interventionist for math and educational materials for math and literacy to better serve students' academic needs. In addition to staffing, the remaining funds are utilized to host family engagement events on campus.

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)(1-2)]
- **A.7:** The School understands its obligation to encourage school staff to use volunteer surveys to compile a volunteer resource book.
[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(6)(B)(ii)]
- **A.8:** The School understands its obligation to conduct no fewer than two parent-teacher conferences per school year.
[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(3)(B)(ii)]
- **A.9:** 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.10:** 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.11:** 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.12:** 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.13:** 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.14:** 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.15:** 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)]

School Information

School Name:	Lincoln Junior High School
School Engagement Facilitators Name:	Cynthia Cochran and Shannon Finer
Plan Revision/Submission Date:	May 18, 2026
District Level Reviewer Name, Title:	Dr. Christie Jay
District Level Approval Date:	June 1, 2026

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>
Ashley	Pointer	LJHS PTO President
Audrey	Killabrew	LJHS Student
Jackson	Hardin	LJHS Student

Gabrielle	Ramirez-Rubio	LJHS Student
Ashlyn	Raines	LJHS Student
Susan	Raines	LJHS Parent
Lillian	Bolinger	LJHS Parent
Marisol	Valdez	LJHS Parent
Josh	Thompson	LJHS Principal
Kim	Fernandez	LJHS Assistant Principals
Ashley	Hensen	LJHS Assistant Principal
Cynthia	Cochran	LJHS Counselor
Shannon	Finer	LJHS Counselor
Ashley	Adams	LJHS Student Advocate
Tracey	Hodge	LJHS Title I Interventionist
Suzanne	Rector	LJHS Interventionist
Danilo	Sandoval	LJHS Special Education Teacher
David	Rector	LJHS Military Representative
Sarah	Wilson	LJHS Teacher
Samantha	Bailey	LJHS Teacher
Craig	Ford	LJHS Teacher and Arts Integration Chair
Alyson	Cawley	LJHS Teacher and Interventionist

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](#)

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 visit our website [#EngagementMattersAR](#)