



Arkansas City Public Schools

District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

I. Overview of Policy

Arkansas City Public Schools – USD 470 recognizes that parent and family engagement is important to student success. Families, schools, and the community share responsibility for supporting student learning and achievement.

USD 470 is committed to meaningful, two-way communication and partnerships with families of students participating in Title I, Part A programs. Families will have opportunities to help plan, review, and improve Title I programs and activities.

The district will support schools in providing accessible and meaningful engagement opportunities focused on student achievement. Each Title I school will also develop a school-level Parent and Family Engagement Policy outlining how families will be involved.

II. Policy Goals

Through this policy, USD 470 will:

1. **Build strong partnerships** among families, schools, the district, and community partners to support student learning and achievement.
2. **Provide meaningful opportunities** for parents and family members to participate in decisions regarding Title I programs and district and school improvement efforts.
3. **Build capacity for families and staff** by helping families understand academic expectations, monitor student progress, and support learning at home, while helping staff effectively communicate and work with families as equal partners.
4. **Ensure accessible and inclusive engagement** by providing clear information and meaningful opportunities for participation and addressing barriers that may limit family involvement.
5. **Use family feedback and evaluation data** to improve engagement practices and, when appropriate, revise district and school Parent and Family Engagement Policies.

III. Parent and Family Engagement in the Title I, Part A Program

USD 470 will reach out to and engage parents and family members of students participating in Title I, Part A programs and will implement programs, activities, and procedures designed to promote meaningful parent and family engagement.

A. Joint Development of Improvement Plans and Title I Programs

The district will provide opportunities for parents and family members to participate in the development, review, and improvement of:

- The District Improvement Plan;
- Title I, Part A program plans and activities;
- District Parent and Family Engagement Policy; and
- School improvement and support plans, as appropriate.

Parent and family input will be gathered through meetings, committees, surveys, and other engagement opportunities. The district will consider this feedback when developing and updating improvement plans and Title I programs.

B. Support for Title I Schools

USD 470 will provide guidance, resources, and support to help Title I schools plan and carry out effective parent and family engagement activities that support student achievement.

District support may include:

- **Policy and compliance support** related to developing, reviewing, and implementing school Parent and Family Engagement Policies and Title I requirements.
- **Resources and professional learning** to help school staff develop effective family engagement practices and provide meaningful opportunities for family participation.
- **Collaboration and shared learning** by supporting schools in collecting and using family feedback, sharing effective practices, and connecting with community organizations, businesses, agencies, and other partners, as appropriate.

IV. Building Capacity for Parent and Family Engagement

USD 470 will support meaningful partnerships among parents, family members, schools, and the community by providing opportunities that build the capacity of families and school staff.

A. Supporting Parents and Families

The district and Title I schools will provide parents and family members with assistance, information, and resources to help them:

- **Understand academic expectations and assessments**, including state standards, grade-level expectations, and state and local assessments.
- **Monitor and support student progress**, including understanding student achievement and ways to support learning at home.
- **Partner effectively with educators** to support their child's academic achievement.

Information may be provided through parent meetings, conferences, family events, newsletters, websites, electronic communication, workshops, individual communication, and other appropriate formats.

B. Materials and Training for Families

The district and Title I schools will provide, as appropriate, materials, resources, and training to help parents and family members support their children's learning and academic achievement.

Opportunities may include:

- **Literacy and academic support**, including strategies for supporting reading, mathematics, homework, and independent learning at home.
- **Understanding and using student information**, including assessment results, student progress, and available district and school resources.
- **Technology and other learning resources** that families can use to support learning at home, along with other topics identified through family feedback and student needs.

C. Building Staff Capacity

USD 470 will provide professional learning and support to teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and staff regarding:

- **Value and partner with families** as equal partners in their children's education.
- **Communicate and engage effectively** with parents and family members.
- **Build strong school-family partnerships** through meaningful engagement.

D. Coordination and Integration

When appropriate, USD 470 will coordinate Title I parent and family engagement efforts with other programs that support students and families, including early childhood, special education, English learner, migrant, McKinney-Vento, and community-based programs.

E. Accessible Communication

USD 470 will provide information about Title I programs and family engagement opportunities in an understandable format and in a language families can understand. The district and schools will make reasonable efforts to address communication barriers and provide accessible or translated materials when appropriate, including Parent and Family Engagement Policies, school-parent compacts, Parents' Right to Know notifications, and assessment information.

F. Additional Support

The district will provide reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Title I, Part A as requested by parents and as appropriate and allowable under applicable requirements and available resources.

V. Annual Evaluation of Parent and Family Engagement

USD 470 will conduct an annual evaluation with meaningful involvement from parents and family members to assess the effectiveness of the district's Parent and Family Engagement Policy and identify opportunities for improvement.

The evaluation will:

- **Assess the effectiveness of family engagement practices** and identify barriers and family needs, with particular attention to families who may face challenges related to economic circumstances, disabilities, language, literacy, or other barriers.
- **Gather parent and family feedback** through surveys, meeting feedback, participation data, and other appropriate methods.
- **Use the findings to develop evidence-based strategies** for more effective family engagement and revise the district and school Parent and Family Engagement Policies when appropriate.

VI. Parent Participation in Title I Activities

USD 470 will provide parents and family members with opportunities to participate in Title I activities and provide input on the implementation and effectiveness of Title I programs. The district may use a parent advisory group or other representative parent group to provide input on Title I programs and the development, review, and revision of the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The district will also encourage participation through school committees, family engagement activities, surveys, conferences, meetings, and volunteer opportunities.

VII. Accessibility and Inclusive Engagement

USD 470 will ensure families have meaningful opportunities to participate in their child's education and Title I programs. The district and Title I schools will make reasonable efforts to provide outreach and communication to families of students with disabilities, limited English proficiency, limited literacy, migrant students, students receiving Title III or McKinney-Vento services, and others who may face barriers to participation. Schools will consider accessibility, language, scheduling, and other identified needs when planning family engagement activities.

VIII. Parents Right to Know

At the beginning of each school year, USD 470 will notify parents of students attending Title I schools of their right to request information about the qualifications of their child's teachers and, when applicable, paraprofessionals. Upon request, the district will provide information about teacher qualifications, licensure status, and paraprofessional qualifications.

Parents will also receive applicable information about their child's achievement and growth on state assessments and timely notice if their child is taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable state certification or licensure requirements.

IX. Testing Transparency

USD 470 will provide families with information about state and local assessments through appropriate school and district communications. When applicable, information will include the assessment's subject and purpose, why it is required, the testing schedule and estimated testing time, and how and when results will be shared with families.

X. District and School Parent and Family Engagement Policies

USD 470 will maintain a district Parent and Family Engagement Policy and support each Title I school in developing and maintaining a school-level policy. The district policy will establish expectations for parent and family engagement and be incorporated into the District Improvement Plan. Title I schools will jointly develop their policies with parents and family members and describe how required engagement activities will be implemented.

XI. Distribution and Review of Policy

The district Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be reviewed annually with meaningful involvement from parents and family members. Their feedback will be considered when revising the policy. The district will make the current policy available to families and the community through appropriate district and school communication channels.