Heard Elementary School
Parent and Family Engagement Plan
2026-2027 School Year

Revised: August 28, 2026



6515 Houston Road
(478)779-4250
https://heard.bcsdk12.net/
Mrs. Carole Côté, Principal

What is Title I?

Heard Elementary is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act, Title I, Part A. Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging State academic standards in order to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parent and family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement plan and schoolwide program plan to strengthen student academic achievement.

Heard's Plan for Shared Responsibility for Success

What is it? This is a plan that describes how Heard Elementary will provide opportunities to improve parent and family engagement to support student learning. Heard Elementary values the contributions and engagement of parents and families in order to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Heard Elementary will support parent and family engagement and how parents and families can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it revised? Parents and family members are invited to attend several meetings, focus groups and the annual Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Forum in the spring to review and revise this plan, the Schoolwide Improvement Plan, School-Parent Compact and family engagement budget. These meetings are scheduled at convenient times. Parent and family feedback received will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and use of funds for family engagement.

Who is it for? All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families, are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Heard Elementary will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available? At the beginning of the year, the plan is available at school functions. Parents and family members can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center, the Media Center, and Front Office or view it on the school's website. A copy of the plan will be sent home with each student.

Academic Goals

District Goals:

Strategic Goal 1: Student Achievement

All students will continually demonstrate high academic and social-emotional growth preparing them for life, college, and careers.

Strategic Goal 2: Staff Effectiveness

All employees will excel daily in the performance of their roles to ensure our district thrives.

Strategic Goal 3: Stakeholder Engagement

We will build collective ownership and active engagement among all stakeholders to maximize students' overall learning experiences.

School Goals:

SMART Goal 1 - Focus area: K-2 ELA & Math

- Heard will increase grade K-2 students (and each subgroup for example, ALL, ED, SWD, EL, Gifted, etc.) performing at the proficient level or above by 6 percentage points in ELA from __% to __% and Math from __% to __% on STAR and iReady by May 2027.
- SMART Goal 2 – Focus Area: 3-5 ELA, Math, & Science Heard will increase 3-5 grade students (and each subgroup for example, ALL, ED, SWD, EL, Gifted, etc) performing at the proficient level or above by 6 percentage points in ELA from 35% to 41%, Math from 35% to 41%, and Science(5th) from 51% to 57% on the Spring 2027 GMAS. (*Emphasis on distinguished).

Let's Build the Heard Hawk Nest!

Heard Elementary will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement.
Events are held at various times and families are notified in advance.

Open House – July 2026

✓ Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff for the year.

Annual Title I Meeting – September 2026

✓ We invite you to an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program including our parent and family engagement plan, schoolwide plan, school-parent compact, parents' requirements, and your right to be involved.

Family Literacy Night– September 2026

✓ Participate in fun reading activities and learn more about state assessment requirements.

K-5th Grade Open House/Informational Meeting – September 2026

✓ Parents will learn about curriculum and expectations for the upcoming school year. Parents sign up for Parent Portal (technology).

Grandparents Social - September 2026

✓ Visit your grandchild's classroom.

Communication Module - September 2026 other dates TBA

✓ Join us for our staff professional development session, communicating with parents, to help build ties between families and the school developed with the assistance of our parents.

Georgia Family Engagement Month/National Parental Involvement Day: November 19, 2026

✓ Each school will celebrate families during the month of November.

Parent-Teacher and Student-Led Conferences – September 2026 & April 2027

✓ Teachers will send home notes notifying parents of dates and times for updates on your child's progress and review the progress of the school-parent compact.

Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Forum - February 2027

✓ Participate in roundtable discussions with the principal and staff regarding the schoolwide plan, parent and family engagement plan, school-parent compact and the family engagement budget.

Career Day - November 2026

✓ Heard students are able to learn more about various careers as guests visit the school and present information about their careers and display tools to perform their jobs. Parents may be selected to be a guest for Career Day.

Literacy Week / Read Across America – March 2027

✓ Parents will learn about literacy and take activities home to help their students. Parents may be asked to be mystery readers.

GA Milestones Parent Workshop/GSE/Parent Portal Workshop – March 2027

✓ Learn about the GA assessment and about Parent Portal along with helpful websites for students.

Parent Appreciation– April 2027

✓ A recognition of family engagement impact on school and student success at the annual Volunteer in Schools Awards event. Fifth Grade Transition Day and Parent Workshop – March / April 2027

✓ Fifth grade students will visit Rutland Middle School to learn about expectations for their sixth-grade year. Parents will participate in a workshop detailing middle school expectations.

Kindergarten Transition Workshop – April / May 2027 for upcoming Kindergarten students.

✓ Parents will learn about curriculum and expectations for the school year.

Some additional meetings will be held at various times throughout the day, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible can attend.

Family-School Compacts

As part of this plan, Heard Elementary and our families will develop a school-parent compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop together that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students and teachers during Family Engagement Team Meetings. The school-parent compacts are kept with each child's teacher and the Family Engagement Facilitator if parents would like a copy.

Heard Elementary is Soaring High!

At Heard, we believe in and value parent participation. Communication between parents and teachers regarding academics, behavior, and other school activities are important when it comes to student success. We will:

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is timely and published in both English and Spanish, as needed. Interpreters are available if needed.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis about school meetings and events such as by newsletter, signed papers, flyers, emails, text messages, social media, and phone calls as appropriate.
- ✓ Conduct staff development on family engagement practices and effective strategies for staff to work with parents as equal partners. During faculty meetings, we communicate any parental feedback to keep the communication open between parents/staff.
- ✓ Partner with Pre-K and other programs to coordinate and integrate family engagement activities to support the full participation of parents in their child's education. We offer workshops about the curriculum and expectations for both 5th grade to 6th grade and Pre-K to Kindergarten transitions.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials and training for parents to work with their children to improve student academic achievement and monitor their child's progress. We provide copies of the standards for our parents and helpful tips through newsletters and calendars.
- ✓ Listen and respond to parents' requests for additional support for family engagement activities. We listen to our parents by responding and addressing feedback provided on surveys and by having a suggestion box located in the Parent Resource Center.



Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Heard Elementary and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

- ✓ Welcoming All Families
- ✓ Communicating Effectively
- ✓ Supporting Student Success
- ✓ Speaking Up for Every Child
- ✓ Sharing Power
- ✓ Collaborating with Community

Family Engagement Team

Heard Elementary invites all parents to join the Family Engagement Team to share ideas and ways to involve other parents to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The team will meet four times during the school year, but parents can also submit their ideas or suggestions during all activities and meetings as well as through our parent surveys and website. For more information contact Family Engagement Representative at (478) 779-4212 or complete the interest form and leave it in the front office.

Join Our Team!

- ☐ Yes, I am excited about joining the Family Engagement Team
- ☐ Yes, please contact me so I can learn more about the Family Engagement Team
- ☐ Yes, this sounds like a great idea, please keep me posted about future meetings

Name:_____

Child's Name and Grade:

Address:_____

Phone Number:_____

Email address:_____

Share Your Thoughts

Parents and Family members, we want to hear from you! Share your suggestions or submit feedback about any part of the Title I Schoolwide Plan that you feel is not satisfactory to the goals for student and academic achievement. Please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the main office.

Name: (optional)_____

Telephone Number: (optional) _____

Suggestions:_____