

Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Parent Involvement Plan 2017-2018

The Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired recognizes the importance of parent and family involvement in the educational success of students, and is committed to increasing parental involvement in all academic, functional and social areas of their child's education. The administration and faculty at ASBVI believes that we should foster and support active parental involvement, and acknowledges that parents are an integral part of the educational success of their children. The following programs and practices have been created and established as the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Parent Involvement Plan:

All parents, alumni, and community stakeholders, will be surveyed at the beginning and end of each school year in effort to gather information about parent/family/community volunteer interest areas and to obtain feedback on academics, school climate/culture, and the effectiveness of. These surveys will be reviewed by the ACSIP committees, and used to for planning and implementation of initiatives and goals for planning overall school improvement and maintaining a Parent Involvement Plan that reflects the concerns and needs of our parents. Upon the completion of each school year, all parents will receive a specific survey related to Special Education and Due Process. (Surveys are attached following this plan.)

- a) K-12 Online Survey (Available at www.arkansaschoolfortheblind.org)
- b) K-12 Volunteer Interest Inquiry (available online)
- c) Early Childhood and Secondary Special Education Parent/Guardian Survey (Provided during Due Process Conferences).

Orientation to the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be provided parents during Registration Day at the beginning of each school year, or as requested. Parent Conferences will be held a minimum of twice a year to allow parents the opportunity to become involved in their child's grade specific academic and extracurricular activities.

The following activities are scheduled for the 2016-2017 school year:

- (a) Registration, new Parent/Student Orientation, Parent Teacher Conferences – August 13, 2017 (12:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
- (b) Braille Boot Camps – TBA
- (c) East Meets West (9:00 am – 2:00)
- (d) Report to the Public – October 14, 2016
- (e) ASBVI Homecoming/Parade/Wrestling Tournament – November 11, 12 & 13, 2016
- (f) Thanksgiving Luncheon for Parents, November 17, 2016
- (g) Cookies with Santa – December 10, 2016
- (h) Spelling Bee – TBA, 2016
- (i) Semester Tests – December 14 & 15, 2016
- (i) Parent Teacher Conference/Parent Dinner/Christmas Concert – December 21, 2016 (Dinner 5:00, Concert 6:30 p.m.)
- (j) Youth Wrestling Candy Bar Meet – January 13, 2017

- (k) Braille Boot Camps – Jan. TBA, Feb. TBA, March TBA, 2017
- (l) Wrestling Conference (to be announced)
- (m) Black History Assembly – February 1, 2017
- (n) Braille Challenge – February 2, 2017
- (o) Student Talent Show – February 23, 2017
- (p) Annual Review/Parent/Teacher Conferences – April 15-May 26, 2017
- (q) Senior Prom – April 20, 2017
- (r) Parent Appreciation Dinner and Spring Concert – May 11, 2017 (Dinner 5:00, Concert 6:30 p.m.)
- (s) Athletic Banquet – May 18, 2017 (6:00 p.m.)
- (t) Pee Wee Athletic Luncheon – May 17, 2017 (11:30 p.m.)
- (u) High School Graduation – May 19, 2017 (10:00 a.m.)
- (v) Kindergarten Graduation/Kindergarten Round-up – May 24, 2017
- (w) Elementary 6th Grade of Graduation – May 25, 2016 (1:00 p.m.)
- (x) Academic Awards – May 26, 2017 (8:30 a.m.)

Ongoing PTA meetings will be held (at a minimum) each month as announced by the PTA parent liaison or PTA president. Parents may now attend PTA meetings through the virtual platform “ZOOM” (directions are found on our website www.arkansaschoolfortheblind.org).

ASBVI will sponsor parent support meetings in concert with the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Parents of Students with Visual Impairments each school year to provide information concerning how parents can become directly involved in their child’s education; to exchange parent-to-parent information; to gain up-to-date information concerning parent rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Due Process; and other parent involvement/development issues related to educational and family needs such as:

- (a) Christmas Cookies with Santa – December 5, 2016
- (d) Parents of VI Students Forum-In conjunction with 2017 Arkansas Braille Challenge

A minimum of two Parent-Teacher conferences will be held annually to provide parents with information concerning their child’s academic success and increase direct parent involvement with the teacher in the academic and extracurricular program of each student. Parents may call for a conference at any time throughout the school year. The days listed are available as are accommodations for parents who have to travel to attend conferences.

- (a) Registration Day Orientation and Teacher Conference – August 14, 2016
- (b) Parent Conference Day – December 21, 2016
- (c) Parent Conference Day – February 20, 2017
- (d) Individual Due Process Conferences throughout the course of each school year will be held as required by law or requested by parents
- (e) Annual Review/Parent Conferences – April 15-May 27, 2017

Each parent will annually receive an updated student handbook stating school requirements, school rules and regulations, resolutions of student issues and offenses, students’ absentee policies and general school information required by the Arkansas Department of Education and

Act 307, House Bill 1521.

A Parent Resource Center is established to provide materials to parents that will increase student success, as well as provide information to parents that reflect the specific needs of their child and their family. The Parent Resource Center will also provide direct access to on-line computers for research purposes, books and magazines concerning visual impairment and blindness, educational materials and information, Due Process materials and information, and grade level kits that will provide specific information about grade level academics, specific eye diseases, necessary modifications and accommodations for students, advocacy groups, etc.

- (a) Computer access
- (b) Grade level kits containing relevant information about academics & extracurricular activities, school handbook, etc.
- (c) Academic Books
- (d) Relevant materials concerning visual impairments
- (e) Magazines, journals
- (f) Parent Resource List
- (g) Email addresses of school
- (h) Student Handbooks and school policies
- (i) Parent Overnight Accommodations

A certified staff member will be appointed annually to fulfill the role of parent facilitator. The facilitator will organize meaningful training for parents and staff in the areas of promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parental involvement. The facilitator will also undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset of the school.

- (a) Certified staff member
- (b) Administrators

Parents who are involved with their child's education will be acknowledged through newspaper articles commending them for their dedication and support. Other forms of parent appreciation will be used such as: commendations, certificates, refrigerator magnets tips on parent involvement and student achievement, etc.

- (a) Local newspaper articles
- (b) Certificates and commendations awarded during Open-House activities
- (c) Web site information concerning parent participation opportunities

Administrators and faculty members will hold regional seminars throughout the state to provide the parents of visually impaired and blind public school students' access to appropriate academic, extracurricular, social and functional performance information, as well as Due Process/Parental Rights information concerning their child's education.

- (a) Seminars provided to public school parents by certified staff
- (b) Information provided to public school parents concerning appropriate education

Parent involvement and participation information will be provided on the ASBVI web site, in school newsletters, through ASBVI Parent Resource Center, and through general correspondence from the Superintendent, Principals and Teachers.

- (a) ASBVI Web Site

- (b) School Newsletters
- (c) Parent Notices & Letters
- (d) Parent Resource Center
- (e) Welcome-Back School Letter containing school calendar, telephone numbers, email addresses, relevant information, etc.

Staff development opportunities will be provided each year through the ASBVI parent involvement facilitator, teachers and school administration to enhance the understanding and importance of parent participation within the school. Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, all teachers and administrators will be required to have (2) hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.

- (a) Annual staff development
- (b) Workshops on and off campus
- (c) Arkansas IDEAS
- (d) Guest speakers

ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE 2017-2018

Members:

James Caton, Superintendent
Justin Rasnick, Secondary Principal
Teresa Doan, Elementary Principal/LEA
Tyrone Williams, Special Education Supervisor
Alyssa Rasnick, Parent Facilitator
Jennifer Linder, Guidance Counselor
Justin Rasnick, Special Education Supervisor
Shelli Moore, Director Early Intervention Program
Amanda Noles, Parent
_____, Early Intervention Program Teacher
Linda Williams, Secondary Teacher
Michelle Tull-Brown, Gifted and Talented Teacher
Mindy Fitzgibbon, Speech Therapist
Lori Cole, Braille Teacher/Adaptive Technology
Sam Hall, DLL/DTC

Margaret Berry, LCSW
Cindy Wilkinson, Director of Instructional Materials Center
_____, RN

John McAllister, Board Member

Scott Smith, Business Representative

Roger Fitzgibbon, Business Representative

(All ASB staff members are encouraged to be active members of the Parental Involvement Committee)

Purpose

To create strategies and develop plans to:

1. build strong relationships between teachers and students' parents;
2. build pathways of parental involvement in students' educational processes;
3. provide on-going educational support to parents of Arkansas students with sensory impairments.