

# Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Parent Involvement Plan 2016-2017

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 a 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 an 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. The surveys will be reviewed by the ACSIP committee and used 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. (Online survey is attached.)

- a) K-12 Online Survey (Available at [www.arkansasschoolfortheblind.org](http://www.arkansasschoolfortheblind.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 to parents during Registration Day at the beginning of each school year, or as requested. A minimum of two Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held annually 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 2016-17 school year:**

- (a) Registration, new Parent/Student Orientation, Parent-Teacher Conferences – August 14, 2016 (12:00-4:00 p.m.)
- (b) Braille Boot Camps – August 29, Sept. 20, Oct. 20, Nov. TBA, Dec. TBA
- (c) PTA Car Show – Sept. 24, 2016 (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)
- (d) Report to the Public – Oct. 25, 2016
- (e) ASBVI Homecoming Parade/Wrestling Tournament – Nov. 11, 12 & 13, 2016
- (f) Thanksgiving Luncheon for Parents – Nov. 17, 2016
- (g) Cookies with Santa – Dec. 10, 2016

- (h) Spelling Bee – TBA, 2016
- (i) Parent-Teacher Conferences/Parent Dinner/Christmas Concert – Dec. 21, 2016  
(Dinner 5:00 p.m. , Concert 6:30 p.m.)
- (j) Youth Wrestling Candy Bar Meet – Jan. 13, 2017
- (k) Braille Boot Camps – Jan. TBA, Feb. TBA, March TBA, 2017
- (l) Wrestling Conference – TBA, 2017
- (m) Black History Assembly – Feb. 1, 2017
- (n) Braille Challenge – Feb. 2, 2017
- (o) Student Talent Show – Feb. 23, 2017
- (p) Annual Review/Parent-Teacher Conferences – April 15-May 26, 2017
- (q) Senior Prom – April 20, 2017
- (r) Parent Appreciation Dinner/Spring Concert – May 11, 2017 (Dinner 5:00p.m.,  
Concert 6:30 p.m.)
- (s) Pee Wee Athletic Luncheon – May 17, 2017 (11:30 a.m.)
- (t) Athletic Banquet – May 18, 2017 (6:00 p.m.)
- (u) High School Graduation – May 19, 2017 (10:00 a.m.)
- (v) Kindergarten Graduation/Kindergarten Round-up – May 24, 2017
- (w) Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation – May 25, 2017 (1:00 p.m.)
- (x) Academic Awards – May 26, 2017 (8:30 a.m.)

Ongoing PTA meetings will be held 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.arkansasschoolfortheblind.org](http://www.arkansasschoolfortheblind.org)).

ASBVI will sponsor parent support meetings in conjunction 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 (IDEA) and Due Process, along with other parent involvement/development issues related to educational and family needs such as:

- (a) Christmas Cookies with Santa – Dec. 10, 2016
- (b) Parents of VI Students Forum – Feb. 2, 2017, in conjunction with the 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 – Dec. 21, 2016
- (c) Parent Conference Day – Feb. 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 26, 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 has been 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 provide these materials through:

- (a) Direct access to on-line computers for research purposes
- (b) Relevant materials, including but not limited to books and magazines, concerning visual impairments and blindness
- (c) Necessary modifications
- (d) Academic Books
- (e) Due Process materials and information
- (f) Grade level kits containing relevant information about academic and extracurricular activities
- (g) A Parent Resource List
- (h) Email addresses of school
- (i) Student Handbook and School Policies
- (j) 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 for parental involvement. The facilitator will also undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset of the school.

Parents who are involved in their child's education will be acknowledged and commended for their dedication and support. Forms of acknowledgement and commendation may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Local newspaper articles
- (b) Certificates and commendations awarded during PTA meetings or Parent-Teacher Conferences
- (c) Receiving a refrigerator magnet with tips on student achievement, parent involvement, etc...

Parent involvement and participation information will be provided on the ASBVI web site, in school newsletters, through the ASBVI Parent Resource Center, and through general correspondence from the Superintendent, Principals, and Teachers; including the Welcome-Back School Letter containing the school calendar, telephone numbers, email addresses, and other relevant information.

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.

Staff development opportunities will be provided each year through the ASBVI Parent 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 two hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.

**ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED  
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE  
2016-2017**

**Members:**

James Caton, Superintendent  
Chris Jones, Secondary Principal  
Teresa Doan, Elementary Principal/LEA  
Justin Rasnick, Special Education Supervisor  
Jennifer Linder, Guidance Counselor  
Shelli Moore, Director Early Intervention Program  
Pam Raspberry, Early Intervention Program Teacher  
Amanda Noles, Parent  
Alyssa Rasnick, Parent Facilitator  
Everett Elam, ASB/ASD Board Member  
Mary Weeks, ASB/ASD Board member  
Linda Williams, Secondary Teacher  
Chris Wilks, Gifted and Talented Teacher  
Mindy Fitzgibbon, Speech Therapist  
Lori Cole, Braille Specialist/Adaptive Technology  
Margaret Berry, LCSW  
Cindy Wilkinson, Director of instructional Materials Center  
BJ Bradford, RN  
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.