

District Parent Involvement Policy
2015-2016
Superintendent, Carolyn Wilson

Parent Involvement Committee:

Carolyn Wilson	Supt./Fed Prog Coordinator
Carol Crow	Elementary Parent Facilitator
Hope Mullins	High School Parent Facilitator
Valerie Johnson	Parent Center Coordinator
Lauri Strickland	Parent
Mable Smith	Parent
Ginger Wood	Parent
Mindy Searcy	Elementary Principal
Stephen Prince	High School Principal
Dana Otterpohl	Elementary Master Teacher
Tracey Littlejohn	High School Mentor Teacher

Goal 1: Cross County School District will foster effective parental involvement strategies and support partnerships among school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement.

Each year, an annual meeting for Title I, Part A Program (The 2015 meeting was held July 9, 2015 and facilitated by Carolyn Wilson, Federal Programs Coordinator), was held to update/change the schools district Parent Involvement Policy including review of NCLB's Section 1116 requirements. The parental involvement committee will work diligently with the TAPS (Teachers and Parents of Students) to provide assistance to students and parents, including parents of children with disabilities and English Language Learners. The district has provided a parent facilitator at each campus to serve as a contact person: Cross County Elementary Technology Academy-Carol Crow at 870 588 3338, and Cross County High School, A New Tech School-Hope Mullins at 870 588 3338. The policy is available on the district website and a printed copy is accessible at both schools, during open houses, parent teacher conferences, Parent Nights, and other events open to the public, a copy of the policy is also included in the Student Handbooks. A second meeting will be held in early spring each year and facilitated by the Federal Programs Coordinator to discuss the effectiveness of the plan. (The 2016 meeting will be Wednesday, January 28, 2016.) The parents of the ABC Pre-school, housed in the elementary building, are included in all activities provided for Primary students (Open House, Donuts for Dad, Muffins for Mom, Grandparents Breakfast, School Health Fair, etc.).

Goal 2: The district provides coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement.

District Administration (Carolyn Wilson, Superintendent, Stephen Prince, High School Principal, and Mindy Searcy, Elementary School Principal) and the district parent coordinator (Valerie Johnson) will conduct site visits collaborating with building facilitators to ensure policies are being implemented. Professional development is provided for each faculty member to ensure effective communication with parents and community members as well as enhance faculty awareness. Funding is available for the district parent coordinator, parents, and the building facilitators to attend an annual Parent Involvement Conferences. CCSD utilizes parent compacts to increase parental involvement. Literacy and math nights take place each year, to teach and reinforce parents in how to effectively work with their students. Flexible scheduling is provided in order to accommodate varying work schedules. The Parent Coordinator, Valerie Johnson, is responsible for disseminating the parental involvement policy too parent and community. During open houses conducted at the beginning of each school year, she informs parents of the district's parental involvement policy and encourages parents to volunteer and become an active participant in their child's education. She explains the Parent compact, developed and adjusted by parents, and the Parent Center and how she can assist parents with materials and training to help them work with their children.

The policy is available on the district website, a shortened version in the student handbook, and a printed copy is accessible at both schools, during open houses, parent teacher conferences, Parent Nights, and other events open to the public.

Currently, there are no families in the district that do not have a bilingual speaking person in the home, all students that are English second language can speak English at this point or they have an interpreter in the household. The Building principals (Mindy Searcy, Elementary Principal and Stephen Prince, High School Principal) are responsible for making sure of ESL status in the building before letters are sent.

Goal 3: The district tries to build the schools' capacity for strong parental involvement.

The CCSD principals, Stephen Prince, High School, and Mindy Searcy, Elementary School, will provide information to participating parents in such areas as national, state, and local education goals, including parents' rights as defined in Title I, Part A during all open houses and at the annual district's report to the public. Pamphlets, school parent compacts, Right to Know Letters, and digital information will be available and disseminated. These principals along with, Valerie Johnson, Parent Coordinator, will work to encourage the development of parent engagement groups in order to improve parental involvement within the

school, and conduct a survey of parents on suggestions to improve school effectiveness. The CCSD will utilize the results of parent surveys to improve parental involvement and encourage higher academic performance. Cross County Elementary Technology Academy Open House was held on July 27, 2015 and the Cross County High School Open House was held on July 27, 2015, the annual report to the public is scheduled on October 19, 2015. The parents of the ABC Pre-school, housed in the elementary building, are included in all activities provided for Primary students (Open House, Donuts for Dad, Muffins for Mom, Grandparents Breakfast, School Health Fair, etc.). Funds are available at the district to provide a stipend to parent facilitators at both schools, and the Parent Center provides supplies as needed to support parent involvement activities at both schools.

Goal 4: Cross County School District will conduct, with the involvement of parents, ongoing evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy as it relates to strategies for increasing parental participation and identifying barriers to greater participation?

An annual meeting is held to update/change the school's district Parent Involvement Policy and the Parent-Student-School Compacts. The meeting is facilitated by the Superintendent and Federal Programs Coordinator, Carolyn Wilson and The Parent Center Coordinator, Valerie Johnson. The purpose will be to identify any areas of concern that may create barriers for parents who wish to be active participants in their student's education. These concerns, along with parent surveys will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the district policy. The finding will also be used to make changes to the existing policy and make recommendation for future change. All parents will be invited to the meeting through the district's automated phone service, SchoolReach. The district will develop and disseminate an annual evaluation of parent activity report to share with parents, staff and community. The report will be available on the district's website by mid-February

Goal 5: The district involves parents in the joint development of the district Title I Application under section 1112 (ACSIP).

We have ACSIP planning meetings a minimum of twice a year and invite parents to become active participants (May 5, 2015 & July 16, 2016). We have a parent advisory committee that works on the development of the parent compacts. The CCSD will utilize the results of parent surveys to improve parental involvement and encourage higher academic performance. Local business are invited to attend school functions including sponsoring the lunch buddies program.

Planning meetings usually occur in April and July, often a follow-up meeting will be scheduled in August if needed. The meetings are facilitated by the Federal Programs Coordinator, the Parent Center Coordinator, and both building principals.

