

HERON LAKE - OKABENA ELEMENTARY
Family Engagement Plan for Parent Involvement
2017-18

Heron Lake-Okabena Elementary is a grade K-6 site. Two highly qualified paraprofessionals are responsible for Title I services [when maternity leave ends, a licensed teacher will take over]. All teachers and paraprofessionals are assigned to RtI team teaching techniques.

Parents and teachers need to be good working partners to help provide the best education we can for all children. The school has a variety of ways for parents to get involved with their child's elementary education. It utilizes technology to communicate with all staff members and to keep parents updated on academic progress through the parent portal. Teachers, parents, and students must work as one.

The LEA involves parents in the joint development of the District Parent Involvement Policy/Procedures and Title Plan. Parents of Title students are asked to come to a meeting at the HLO Elementary School in late May. It is also sent home via email and placed in the local newspaper. We are hoping to get at least a dozen positive responses from the mailing. At the meeting the Title teachers explain what type of programming each has done during the school year. Parents ask questions and are asked for their input on what they would like to have done to improve or expand programming. At parent/teacher conferences the building Title teachers take the opportunity to work with parents who seek assistance.

The LEA provides coordination, technical assistance, and support to schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The LEA builds the schools' and parents' capacity for parent involvement.

The district provides a parent website where parents can communicate with teachers and view daily progress, high stakes testing results, and on-line report cards. Parents and their student are invited to meet with teachers anytime. Parents are informed about the Title I program and the various opportunities there are for parent involvement and volunteering. Parent/Teacher Conferences are booked into the school calendar in the fall and spring. Parents are invited to have lunch with their student whenever they wish. The school will provide materials and training to help work with their children.

The Title teacher has the responsibility of building a positive relationship with their students and parents. Expectations for parents are laid out in the student contract. The LEA will educate all school staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and how to reach out and communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

Each fall during in-service teachers and paraprofessionals discuss with administration the importance of working with parents and to establish positive lines of communication from the start. Teacher websites encourage parental assistance by providing resources parents can access every day. Daily planner books students bring home each night are used to keep the lines of communication open. Teachers are encouraged to keep in constant communication with positive information as well as concerns.

The LEA will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents in a format and a language the parents can understand. The LEA will provide reasonable support for parent involvement.

The district, through its hiring, has found applicants with diverse abilities. This school information is translated from English whenever needed.

The LEA coordinates Title I parent involvement activities with other parent involvement activities in other educational agencies.

The LEA conducts with parents an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools and what the barriers are to parent participation and plan to address them through policy/procedures.

Having parents of ESL students who do not speak English is a difficult barrier. We utilize support from the Noble's County Integration Collaborative translate materials from English for any parents who need assistance. At the annual meeting a wide variety of parents are invited. We have interpreters that also attend. The opportunity for parents to become involved and voice their concerns is what we want from this meeting.

This **Parent Engagement Plan** will be posted on the elementary school website and is sent home with Title I students with the Parent Permission Services Form.