

Byars Dowdy Elementary - Parent Involvement Plan and Activities

Principal: Lorie Blackburn; Assistant Principal: Beth Allison

Family Engagement/Site Committee: Allison Argo, Melissa Sewell, Barbara Dodson, Melissa Campbell, April Brewington, Soniya Patel, Bill Hollaway, Amanda Smith, Joy Bell, MM Farris, Beth Reeder, and Kolleen Mangrum.

1. Byars Dowdy Elementary School welcomes parent/family participation in the education of their children. Research has shown that parent involvement results in increased student success, increased parent and teacher satisfaction, and overall improvement in the school climate. (l)
2. Parents are notified of the parent involvement plan in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. (a)
3. The parent involvement plan is made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and school. (b)
4. The annual Title I meeting informs parents and family members of the school's participation with Title I and other Title programs. During the meeting the requirements of the Title I program are explained to the parents verbally and in written form. Parents are briefed on their right to be involved in the school and are encouraged to do so through various suggested activities. (c)
Activities include the following:
 - Grade Level Orientation makes it possible for parents to get an overall view of classroom teacher, principal, and school expectations. (l)
 - Family Nights are held throughout the year to further enhance the family's understanding of the importance of being involved and knowledgeable about their child's school experience. Some examples of Family Nights include Kindergarten K Smart, Bingo for Books, Literacy Night, Giving Thanks... With Blankets, and Living Books. Through the parent night surveys and the annual surveys the effectiveness of parent participation will be determined as well as identification of barriers to great parent participation. (d) (k)
 - Parent/Teacher Conferences allow another way for parents and teachers to form an important partnership to share information and concerns as well as creating new learning experiences for the students. Parents are strongly encouraged to visit the school, communicate with staff, and schedule additional conferences as needed. Student progress is communicated through mid-nine weeks progress reports, report cards, TVAAS reports and projections, and other methods such as phone calls, letters, checklists, reading logs, school and class newsletters. Parent-Teacher-Student Compacts have been discussed and distributed during conferences. (h)
 - The Byars Dowdy PTO meets to plan fundraisers, discuss concerns, plan upcoming events, and solicit community involvement.
 - All parents are encouraged to become active in our school. Donations of time and talents from parents are needed. Parent volunteers help with reading programs, book fairs, and reading to classes, tutoring students, and field trips. Parents are invited to participate in holiday celebrations, American Education Week, classroom projects and/or programs, Read Me Day, and other literacy events.
5. Parents are notified of these and other opportunities through newsletters, invitations, e-mails, school web site, phone calls, postings on the school marquee, and some events are advertised in the local newspapers. (l)
6. Parents, or an adequate representation of parents, are involved in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement plan and joint development of the school-wide program (TSIPP). (e)
7. The school provides parents with timely information about school programs under NCLB section 1118. (f)
8. The school provides parents a description and explanation of the curriculum the school uses, forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and proficiency levels students are expected to meet. (g)
9. A process is in place to submit parent comments on the school-wide program (TSIPP) if it is not satisfactory to the parents when the school makes the plan available to the district/LEA. (i)
10. Assistance is provided to parents in understanding topics such as the State's academic content standards, State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve student achievement. (j)
11. The school ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. (n)
12. The school will provide other reasonable support for parent involvement activities per parent request. The school currently provides childcare for preschool children at some family night events. (o)
13. The school provides, to the extent practicable, full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand. (p)

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