



Jonesboro Public Schools

Family and Community Engagement Plan

2023-2024

Jonesboro Public Schools parents/guardians/care takers will be invited to join the Family and Community Engagement efforts of the school at the beginning of the school year and will be continually reminded of ways to become involved throughout the school year to ensure an adequate representation of the school population. Schools provide online/ zoom opportunities or surveys to be completed to contribute if they are unable to attend a meeting in person.

Jonesboro Public Schools is a 100% Title I district. Jonesboro Public Schools receives over \$500,000 in Title I funds; therefore, the district sets aside 1% of funds for parental involvement. These funds are distributed to each school receiving Title I funds based on enrollment in the school. School Family and Community Engagement (FACE) coordinators collaborate with stakeholders to develop school plans, including how to budget FACE funds to foster parent and family engagement in activities to support academic growth.

All parents/guardians/care takers interested in serving on the Family and Community Engagement Committee will be encouraged to participate in the development/review of the district and school's plans, policies, and strategies to enhance engagement, addressing specific needs of students and families.

The committee will meet a minimum of twice per school year for the purpose of reviewing such documents. Committee meetings will be scheduled and announced prior to in-person and/or virtual meetings. In addition to meetings, surveys will be used to inform the wants and needs of our families.

A parent friendly version of the F.A.C.E. plans for each building and district will be provided to every family, noting the F.A.C.E. coordinators contact information and how to become more involved with the school. JPS will develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental, family, and community engagement. The results in these partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, families, and the community will be positive for all stakeholders. The communication, relationships, and connection of learning to families will allow the district to have an increase of 5% in the area of literacy, due to incorporating the love of learning into the relationships built.

JPS will:

- Involve parents, families, and the community in the development of the long-range planning of the district.
- Give the schools in the district the support necessary to enable them to plan and implement effective parent, school, community communication to build relationships with trust.
- Provide parent, family, and community engagement activities.
- Have a coordinated engagement program where the engagement activities of the district enhance the parental support, parent information process, and build trust with those that work with all students in the Jonesboro Public Schools.
- Involve strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPY, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs, and Even Start.
- Explain to parents, families, and the community the State's academic and achievement standards, State and local student assessments, how the district's curriculum is aligned with the state's academic standards, and assessments and how parents, families, and the community can work with the district to improve students' academic achievement.
- Provide parents and families with materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve.
- Educate district staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent, family, and community engagement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents, families, and the community.
- Keep parents, families, and the community informed about parental, family, and community engagement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand.
- Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents and families from being involved in their child's education.
- Find and modify other successful parent, family, and community engagement programs to suit the needs of the District.
- Train parents, families, and the community to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents, families, and members of the community.
- Provide reasonable support for other parent, family, and community engagement activities as parents, families, and community may reasonably request.

The Parent, Family, and Community Engagement policies and Volunteers policy are reviewed annually and updated, as needed.

Each school has a FACE committee comprised of parents, staff, and community members that reviews policies, discusses the Title I program and school improvement needs, shares ideas about FACE programs and funds, etc. In addition, each school has a parent organization and/or advisory committee that provides on-going input regarding parent and family engagement. The FACE plan for each school is aligned with the school improvement goals for the school and is included in the schoolwide plan. Schools host Annual Title I parent meetings to discuss the Title I program, ideas to help students academically, feedback from parents regarding schoolwide

programs and budgets, etc. In the 2024 school year, meetings may be rescheduled and/or hosted on-site and/or virtually to accommodate the needs of families.

The FACE plan for the District will be submitted to the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education by August 1, 2023; and, posted to the JPS website when approved. Schools will submit their FACE plans to the District in June 2023; and, post to their school websites by August 1, 2023. Schools will provide a parent-friendly version of the plan to parents in their schools.

A parent who deems the JPS FACE plan unsatisfactory, may make comments to the JPS FACE Coordinator, Cindy Thompson (cindy.thompson@jonesboroschools.net) or the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education PFE Coordinator, Freddie Scott (freddie.scott@ade.arkansas.gov)

Jonesboro Public Schools recognizes the impact Covid-19 has had on Family and Community Engagement the past. In an effort to revitalize the FACE initiative, JPS has contracted with Capturing Kids Hearts, hired behavioral specialists, and have utilized school based mental health to provide for students and families through private companies to serve students of need. There are therapists and case managers on campus working with students and families daily, as well as focused on building relationships to better understand and serve the families of today. JPS will provide professional development during the 2023-2024 school year to all district staff, with required information provided for families.

The District provides support and technical assistance to all Title I schools to plan and implement effective parent and community engagement (FACE) practices, including FACE plans, policies, school-parent compacts, and all Title I FACE requirements. FACE Coordinators have a shared Google Drive in which FACE information is posted, including timeline, meeting agendas, resources, letter templates, etc. The District FACE coordinator met with school FACE coordinator's in Summer 2023 to develop a timeline and plan for 2023-2024. Schools submit the following to Page 3 of 14 District: documentation of FACE professional development, if applicable; updated copy of parent-school compact; updated parents information letter; copy of parent-friendly FACE plan and provided evidence it was shared with parents; results of parent survey; documentation of volunteer training; and, documentation of annual meeting.

Schools maintain documentation of other actions included in their plans. All of the FACE plans are posted in the school Indistar by the deadline and each plan is reviewed using a rubric aligned with the school plan template. After plans are reviewed, school coordinator's revise and submit their plans to the District coordinator. The District coordinator reviews the plans and returns them to the school's coordinators either "accepted" or "with revisions". After approval (and, revisions, if needed), school coordinators post plans to their schools' websites. The District Coordinator will meet with building FACE Coordinators as needed to work on FACE plans, engagement activities, and Parent School Compacts.

Actions:

- Conduct professional development for teachers to enhance their understanding of effective parental involvement strategies. The training will include: the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; how to implement and coordinate parent programs; and, how to build ties between parents and the school.
- Conduct professional development for administrators to enhance their understanding of effective parental involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.
- Conduct professional development for staff focusing on the science of reading, professional learning communities, and other topics to improve academic instruction and parent engagement.
- Provide opportunities for FACE coordinators to attend state and regional FACE workshops.
- Share FACE plans with school staff and discuss strategies, coordinate FACE programs/activities, etc. Plans are posted on District/school websites.
- Parent-friendly versions of the plan are available to parents and staff at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year online and in the Student Handbook. Printed copies are available when requested. Parents will sign that they received the FACE plan at the beginning of the year. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in October 2023 and March 2024. These events will be held from 2:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The District Family Engagement Plan will be offered there as well. Parents will have an opportunity to share feedback in survey that will be sent to the parents. Parents will be able to offer ideas and suggestions for JPS FACE Plan to effectively meet all needs of families JPS serves.
- Share information with school FACE coordinators about events, conferences, workshops, etc.
- Share information about programs with parents in a format, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand. (When a school has information that needs to be translated, the school contacts the District EL coordinator.)
- Make available to staff on-line resources, workshops, etc. about FACE.
- Conduct annual training of volunteers (each school does this.)
- Evaluate District and schools plans each year in collaboration with parents, staff, and community member

At the beginning of each school year, the Jonesboro Public Schools hosts parent meetings/open houses where parents have the opportunity to meet teachers and hear about the current curriculum and assessments that their students will be experiencing. During the open house, parents will be able to learn about volunteer opportunities, how to be involved in decision/goal making, and how to participate in the overall school community to enhance student learning. In addition, teachers sponsoring clubs or activity groups will host meetings in which parents are trained to volunteer in specific ways for specific group needs.

All buildings of Jonesboro Public Schools maintain a parent center in a designated area of each building. The parent center contains parenting books, informational books on teen topics, and family games for checkout. The center also offers free brochures and handbooks providing

information on how to help students be successful. In addition to the physical parent center, parents have access to our website that includes links to tools for parents provided by the Department of Education, electronic copies of brochures and handbooks, and age appropriate tips/tools for learning. At any time, parents may request assistance from the school's FACE coordinator with technology, connecting with teachers, and/or materials needed to help students succeed.

Twice per year the school hosts parent/teacher conferences where parents are encouraged to meet with their student's teachers to discuss academic progress and strategies to promote student learning.

The schools will host a Title I Parent meeting to explain the requirements of Title I, Part A, the Schools' participation and rights to parents to be involved. They will also further explain how parents can track their students' academic progress by using Eschool and staying in contact with their student's teachers.

Each school provides opportunities for parents to learn about Arkansas academic standards, state and local assessments, schoolwide Title I programs, and how to monitor the progress of their children.

Materials, supplies, newsletters, technology, books, videos, on-line resources, QR codes, etc. are provided to parents based on the FACE plans for each school. Communication with parents will be of utmost importance and will look different based on the school plan and family needs. Modes of communication will include: FaceTime, Zoom, phone calls, conference calls, emails, home visits, scheduled face-to-face conferences, etc.

In order to ensure parents/ guardians with limited English proficiency are able to access FACE information, interpreters are provided for conferences. iPads with translation apps are available at the JHS and AC parent center and the TransPerfect interpreting service is available to all schools. Materials are translated into the parents' home language, as needed.

Open house is scheduled for 2023-2024 school year. Each school will have an open house for returning students and students new to the school district. The District has scheduled two Parent-Teacher conferences: October 19, 2023 and March 14, 2024. Each school communicates with parents regularly in a variety of formats including: school websites and teacher webpages, take-home folders, texts/Class Dojo/etc., phone calls, in person at school, home visits, etc. Each school conducts a survey, trains volunteers, provides QR codes, and informational packets to parents. Each school reviews and updates the Parent-School compact in collaboration with parent organization/advisory committee every 2-3 years. Parenting information is available in each school in the parent center (books, magazines, on-line resources, etc.)

In the early Spring, Preview Nights are conducted on each magnet school campus for parents of Kindergarten students to become familiar with each magnet school and facilitate the decision about which magnet school for their child to attend in first grade. Parents of students that are moving from 6th grade to 7th grade at a junior high school will visit new location with

information night. Likewise, as students move from 9th grade in a junior high school to 10th grade at Jonesboro High School, parents and students visit JHS to facilitate the decision about which Academy for their child to enroll.

The following is a sample of activities scheduled for this year to support parents in helping their student's academic success. Details are included in the FACE plan for each school. Jonesboro

Kindergarten Center

- Annual Meeting
- Apps: Seesaw, Remind 101
- Academic updates: parent-friendly assessment information, daily folders
- Parent nights focus on helping parents incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment
- Hispanic Heritage Family Engagement Breakfast
- Parent Information Packets

Math and Science

- Annual Meeting
- Month Capturing Kids' Hearts Newsletters which show how parents can support their child's academic achievement
- Parent and Family Engagement Nights (materials and training how to help their child)
- Literacy Night

Visual and Performing Arts

- Annual Meeting Parent/Family information booklet
- September, November, December, March, April-Parent and Family Engagement Nights
- Weekly Newsletter

Health, Wellness, and Environmental Studies

- Annual Meeting
- Communication: Monthly calendar, Blackboard Connect Calling, School Twitter account, Class Dojo, Remind 101
- Family events focused on improving academic achievement; program is led by community volunteers; Pumpkin Painting, Power Hour: Dealing with Social Media, Back to School Picnic with community vendors International Studies Annual Meeting Information nights

Jonesboro Leadership Magnet

- Annual Meeting
- Family nights, Family/Child Prom, Word Baptist Block Party, Academic Parent Teacher Teams
- Parent Information Packets
- Training for parents on using Eschool to track student academic progress
- Book Clubs led by JA Volunteers

Annie Camp

- Annual Meeting Progress Reports sent home every two weeks
- Parent Education & Support Group with Methodist Behavioral Health Systems
- Living Library
- JBA Mentorship Program

MacArthur

- Annual Meeting
- Community partners provide incentives for good behavior and attendance
- Grade notices sent home every 2 weeks to promote parental monitoring of grades
- Capturing Kids' Hearts newsletters
- Daily Parent eTips from The Parent Institute provided online
- ACT prep for families
- Teacher Created Materials - Take Home Backpacks - activities for parents to help with core curriculum

Jonesboro High School

- Annual Meeting
- Parent access to Home Access Center i
- Pads in the parent center have voice activated translation app for parents and teachers
- College Planning/FAFSA Frenzy
- Parent Night

Each school coordinates services with various community organizations.

Jonesboro Kindergarten Center-Lunch buddies and Backpack food program provided from local churches, Big Canes mentoring, Junior Auxiliary tutoring. Transition conferences with community daycares and preschools. JPS Behavior Specialists provide support to incoming Kindergarteners by observation, visits, calls, or home visits. Preview Night for upcoming students in the Spring.

Math and Science-Jonesboro University Rotary Club and Carter Temple CME Church to provide underserved families with backpack food each Friday; First Baptist Church to provide extra help for struggling students through Lunch Buddies and/or Reading Buddies; various businesses (Hytrol, Gamble Home Furnishings, Craighead County Homemakers Association, First United Methodist Church) to provide school supplies and snacks for students; various community groups for Career Fair; Focus Bank to teach financial literacy to students through use of the Bonsai Program.

Visual and Performing Arts-Jonesboro Academies Pals programs provide tutoring to at-risk students on a weekly basis; ASU student athletes and Greek organizations participate in mentoring students as lunch buddies and/or reading mentors; community leaders serve as lunch buddy mentors; ASU Fine Arts Department serves as liaison to provide special speakers and performers; NEA Food Banks helps the parent organization (PATHS) support the backpack food program; First Baptist Church members volunteer for lunch buddies; Highland Baptist Church

members volunteer with student book club and parent center needs; local businesses volunteer for Career Days; patrons provide donations to provide classrooms with books

Health, Wellness, and Environmental Studies-Southwest Church of Christ tutors for the Rise to Read program, Christmas Emporium (gifts to families in need), and backpacks food program; lunch buddies; Jonesboro Police Department brings DARE to students; Junior Auxiliary presents dissection of a pig's heart and lungs in STEAM classes; PATHS sponsors a Santa Shop each year for students to buy Christmas presents for family and friends

International Studies-First Presbyterian Church and NEA Food Bank provide food for the backpack program; Junior Auxiliary provides dissection workshop for 6th grade students; Jonesboro Police Department presents DARE to 5th grade students; community members are guest speakers in classrooms; volunteers lead book clubs and literature circles

Jonesboro Leadership Magnet -First United Methodist church conducts backpack food program; the public library provides families with literacy night; school staff delivers Thanksgiving dinner to families in need; Walnut Street Baptist Church provides Friends For Life volunteers; First United Methodist church provides a Christmas Emporium to families; Student Leadership Group sponsors a parent/child dance; Junior Auxiliary provides students with book clubs and time tales; Iberia Bank provides 3rd grade students with financial literacy lessons; Men of Micro meet to build leadership skills

Annie Camp- Jonesboro Business Association Mentorship Program; Guest speakers make presentations to classrooms; businesses provide opportunities for job shadowing; city government and philanthropic groups support the AC student action committee, EAST program. 9th grade visits to JHS. 7th grade visits to AC

Douglas MacArthur-business and community groups provide resources for students; PAT volunteers support the backpack food program and clothes closet; Junior Auxiliary provides large items for students in need; Valley View Church of Christ, PAT, ASU, Stuff the Buss provide school supplies; community and school members sponsor the Wish List program; Nationwide Insurance provides a Thanksgiving meal and food for the entire Thanksgiving break for students in need; Dillard's provides clothing, shoes, and jewelry for students who are elected to serve on the Snowball Court; ASU and St. Bernard's Regional medical center provide complimentary physicals; Brandon Burlsworth Foundation provides glasses to students; Arkansas Health Department provides flu shots; community members provide scholarships to band students; 9th grade visits to JHS; 7th grade visits to MAC.

The Academies at JHS-business and community partners provide opportunities for student internships and job shadowing; ASU-Newport partners with JPS to provide three college and career coaches; the JHS PTO fosters parent and community involvement; each of the three academies has an advisory board comprised of parents and community business leaders; school-based mental health provides on-site by Methodist Family Health. 9th grade visits to JHS.

Jonesboro Public Schools (JPS) receives over \$500,000 in Title I funds; therefore, the district sets aside 1% of funds for parental involvement. These funds are distributed to each school receiving Title I funds based on enrollment in the school. Less than 1% of the PFE set-aside is used at the district level, if at all. Family and Community coordinators collaborate with stakeholders to develop school plans, including how to budget FACE funds

Funds are often used to support the activities described in this plan, including activities to: support schools in providing professional development, supporting programs that reach parents at home, in the community, and at school, disseminate information for increasing parent and family engagement and engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members, and other activities to engage parents in the academic support of their children

Each school engages parents in the annual evaluation of its Title I FACE plan. The FACE committee for each school, comprised of teachers, parents, and community members, reviews the plan, identifies barriers that effect parent participation in events, surveys, and discussion groups. The district, as well as the schools, collects data from participation and surveys, and discusses the effectiveness of the actions. If changes are needed, the plan is revised to address barriers that effect parent involvement.

Parents are involved in school wide planning/improvement committees. Parents also offer feedback through surveys, information discussions, and parent groups. The JPS wants to ensure that all families are supported and have positive interaction to improve academic quality of all the schools in the district. The information gathered through the feedback is used to ensure effective family engagement occurs all throughout Jonesboro Public Schools.

Plans are posted on the district and school websites.