

BMES

Parental Involvement Plan



Brindlee Mountain Elementary School
2233 Shoal Creek Road
Arab, Alabama
Marshall County School District

Mrs. Amanda Hollaway, Principal

I. General Requirements

- A. Schools must develop jointly with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written policy describing the implementation of the requirements. This policy shall be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.
- B. If a school has a parental involvement policy that applies to all parents, then the school will only have to amend the policy, if necessary, to meet Title I parental involvement requirements.
- C. If the local educational agency has a school district-level parental involvement policy that applies to all parents, then the LEA will only have to amend the policy, if necessary, to meet Title I parental involvement requirements.
- D. If parents of participating children are not satisfied with the contents of the local educational agency's PTA and the school wide program plan, then the LEA must submit parent comments on each plan.

II. Written Policy

III. Shared Responsibilities for High Student Performance

IV. Building Capacity for Actual Policy

V. Accessibility

VI. Parental Information Resource Centers

II. Written Policy

Section 1118 of No Child Left Behind requires that “each school district that receives Title I, Part A funds to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents.” According to the Act, “school districts must meaningfully consult with parents of children participating in Title I programs in planning and implementing such programs, activities, and procedures.” In carrying out the parental involvement requirements ... “with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the parental involvement policy and use of the findings of the evaluations to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policy”.

Research indicates that parental and community involvement is an indicator of student performance. At BMES, we hope to examine the various components of parental involvement and ways to increase that involvement in all areas within the school. Parent involvement has two independent components: parents as supporters and parents as active partners. BMES is fortunate in that we have supportive and active parents at all grade levels.

A. Shall hold an annual meeting for all parents of participating children to inform them of their school’s participation and to explain its requirements and their right to be involved.

- Since we are designated a Title 1 school all parents are invited to attend the annual orientation held at the beginning of the school year.

Explanations of the program, its federal guidelines, and activities offered will be topics of discussion.

- Parental input will be solicited concerning methods used in forming a plan to achieve the program's objectives and goals monthly.

B. Shall offer flexible number of meetings (a.m. and p.m.) and may provide transportation, childcare, home visits, etc.

- Meetings for parents will be offered as early as 7:00 a.m. and as late as 4:00 p.m. Efforts will be made to accommodate all parents according to their home and work schedules. Some meetings may occur in the evenings, for example, Open House and Parental Involvement Parent Activities
- Notification of these meetings will include methods involving personal letters, telephone calls, news media, flyers, newsletters, BMES FaceBook and Twitter accounts, and OneCallNow.
- Efforts will be made to inform all parents.

C. Shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of the parental involvement program and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan. If a school already has such a process, use that with adequate representation of Title I parents.

- Meetings will be organized on a regular basis to unite parents and school staff. The purpose of the meetings will be to review and attempt to improve the parental involvement plan and the entire parental involvement program.
- Efforts will be made to gain input from all parents regarding the development of the total school program plan.

D. Shall provide parents with timely information about programs, as well as allowing time for school staff to respond to parents' recommendations.

- BMES will provide program information to parents by various methods listed below:

Printed notices
Monthly Calendar of Events
Telephone Calls
Brochures
Flyers
News Releases
Posters
Newsletters
Homework Hotline

- Recommendations made by parents will be processed in a timely manner.

E. Shall provide school performance profiles that show school progress toward meeting the state's challenging performance standards and provide individual student results and interpretation of results to parents.

BMES will disseminate assessment data utilizing one or a combination of the following methods:

- School – Parent/Family Nights, Orientations, Open House
- Send home results by students in report cards
- Individual parent – teacher conferences
- Small group meetings
- Grade level meetings

F. Shall explain curriculum, the forms of assessment, and proficiency levels that students are expected to meet.

- Grade level orientations will be held at the beginning of each school year.
Classroom teachers will inform parents regarding curriculum, classroom standards, homework policies, assessments and proficiency levels.

- Student work is sent home weekly.
- Progress Reports will be provided to parents at mid reporting period.
- Student report cards will be provided to parents every 9 weeks (reporting period).
- Information regarding mid year evaluations will be provided to those parents with children falling short of minimum standards.

G. Shall provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions, share experiences with other parents, and participate as appropriate in decisions relating to the education of their children, if such parents so desire.

- BMES will conduct regularly scheduled parent meetings in informal and informative group sessions with time allotted for parent interaction and a question/answer period.

III. Shared responsibilities for High Student Performance

BMES staff and parents jointly developed a school – parent compact. This compact details the partnership that is necessary in order to educate today’s students. It contends that all persons, including the principal, teachers, parents, and students are important. The compact further demonstrates that all involved have an active role and share equally in the responsibilities.

(See Attached School – Parent Compact)

IV. Building Capacity for Actual Policy

A. To ensure effective involvement with parents, to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community, to improve student achievement, each school—

- (1) Shall help parents to understand the National Education Goals, state content and performance standards, state and local assessments, Title I requirements, DIBELS , AYP Accountability Process, how to monitor progress while participating in their children’s education, and how to work with educators toward children’s improved performance.**

- BMES will conduct inservice programs involving staff, parents, and community. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the National Educational Goals, Alabama CCRS, new state content and performance standards, state and local assessments, and Title I requirements.
- More specialized and individualization concerning monitoring progress, participating in children's education, and working with educators will be provided through the Parent Information Programs.
- Additional activities BMES to promote improved student achievement are:

- *Encourage parents to attend parent education meetings
- *Encourage continuing education classes
- *Train parents to monitor homework
- *Assist parents in interpreting homework assignments and results
- *Help parents in understanding their role in parent/teacher conferences
- *Make parental involvement a school wide effort
- *Recognize parents and students for a job well done
- *Make the classrooms and the school a comfortable place to learn
- *Use the telephone as an instrument of good news.
- *Use community members to endorse school programs and events
- *Involve parents in assessing school policies and practices
- *Keep Parent/teacher dialog journal for communication planners
- *All parents are encouraged to participate in such activities as: Awards Day, Grandparents Day, Thanksgiving Dinner, Veterans Day Program, Christmas Dinner and Activities, Fall Festival, Assist on field trips, Field Day Activities, Homework and Family Reading Nights.

(2) Shall provide materials and facilities to train parents, teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and staff to work with each other and work with parents as equal partners.

- BMES will compile a list of adult literacy training agencies and make such list available to parents. Facilities and materials will be provided to train parents, teacher, principals, staff and pupil

services personnel to work with each other and with parents as equal partners.

(3) Shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and staff with assistance from parents on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.

- An annual inservice session will be conducted in order to continue informing teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and staff on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. Parents will be encouraged to attend and to take an active role in leading portions of the training.

(4) Shall coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs/activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool programs to extent feasible and appropriate.

- BMES will contact leaders for Head Start, Even Start, Preschool, and other such programs and/or agencies located in our community. A plan will be developed to coordinate and integrate the school's parental involvement program with those of the various other agencies. Due to the changing needs of these parents and their children interaction with these agencies will be ongoing.

(5) Shall develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses while encouraging partnerships between primary, middle, and secondary schools.

- BMES will communicate with organizations and businesses through out the area in order to encourage building partnerships with our primary school. The local organizations and businesses

are welcome to become involved with the LEA in able to foster parental involvement in such areas as:

- *Allow time off from work to attend school related meetings
- *Provide tutors
- *Have community and business leaders as speakers at parent meetings and workshops
- *Donate to schools on behalf of parents who are employees or members
- *Sponsor School wide events promoting student achievement

(6) May provide literacy training if all other sources are exhausted.

- BMES may provide literacy training if all other sources are exhausted. Determined efforts will be made to respond to literacy training needs.

(7) May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

- In order to eliminate restraints preventing parents from participating in parental involvement activities, the school will provide station activities for children so parents can attend and focus on sessions.

(8) May train and support parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.

- Workshops and/or clinics may be conducted to train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents in the implementation of some of the following activities:

- *Coordinating the BMES Parent Volunteer Program
- *Helping with classroom projects and special activities
- *Helping with fundraisers
- *Serving as chaperones on fieldtrips

- *Assisting at classroom parties
- *Assisting in the library
- *Assisting in the Physical Education Department

(9) May arrange meetings at a variety of times, such as in the mornings and evenings, in order to maximize the opportunities for parents to participate in school related activities.

- BMES offers flexible scheduling for opportunities in mornings and evenings for parental involvement programs to accommodate working and non-working parents.

(10) May arrange for teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, to conduct in-home conferences with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school.

- When a parent has been identified as unable to attend conferences, the teacher must complete a referral and submit it to the school principal. The principal then will request a home visit by the school's nurse, counselor, classroom teacher, or other appropriate staff member. Information regarding the classroom teacher and professional staff will be shared with the parents during the visit. Afterward, a report must be filed and made available to the school principal and appropriate professional staff members. Funds may be allocated for release time and/or substitutes for teachers to conduct the in home conferences.

(11) May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement, such as Even Start.

- The Marshall County Community Education program provides an opportunity for parents to share concerns, apprehensions, and expectations. Information regarding the curricular

expectations and requirements for kindergarten will be shared with parents during registration and orientation.

Phyllis Young, Parenting Educator for Marshall County Community Education, offers counseling services to those in need.

- In addition, BMES may choose from the following model approaches to improve parental involvement:

Parents as Teachers

Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork (TIPS)

Satellite Centers for Parents

Cooperative Extensive Service

(12) Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

- BMES will consider other support for parental involvement as parents make requests. Support will be given for those requests considered as reasonable.

V. Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of this part, local educational agencies and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency or with disabilities, including providing information and school profiles in a language and form such parents can understand.

VI. Parental Information Resource Centers

In states where parental information and resource centers have been established through Goals 2000: Educate America Act of 1994 (to provide training, information, and support to parents and individuals who work with parents), local educational agencies and schools receiving assistance shall assist parents organizations by informing such parents and organizations of the existence and purpose of such centers, providing such parents and organizations with a

description of the services provided by such centers, advising parents on how to use such centers, and helping parents to contact each center.

If states have parent information and resource centers under Goals 2000, Title I LEAs and schools must notify parents of their content or services offered to parents, such as:

- **Reading materials that assist parents as teachers.**

1. Helping Your Student Get the Most Out of Homework. (1996). National PTA, National Education Association. This brochure answers parents' questions about homework and gives specific tips.
2. Paulu, N. (September 1995). Helping Your Child with Homework. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement. This easy-to-read overview provides parents with practical ways to help elementary and middle school students with homework.
3. Home and School Connection – given to students K – 4 for 12 easy ways to increase parental involvement.
4. **Books available at BMES's Professional Resource Room:**
 1. Are They Really Reading
 2. I Read It, But I Don't Get It
 3. Reading Strategies That Work!
 4. Recipe For Reading
 5. Revisit, Reflect, Retell
 6. What Really Matters For Struggling Readers

- **Games, books, articles, publications, and videos for checkout.**

- **Materials available at BMES's Professional Resource Room:**
 1. Dr. Cravin's Formula for Storytelling (video)
 2. Reading Renaissance: Introduction (video)
 3. Reading Renaissance: Moving Students Up (video)
 4. Whisper Phones
 5. Wright Group Phonics Skills Box

- **As assistant who provides parents with instruction in subject areas.**

- **Websites available to parents for parental involvement in schools.**

- <http://www.ncpie.org> National Coalition for Parent Involvement In Education
- <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/parentalinvolvement/> Department of Education and Skills
- <http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvemnet/index.asp> National PTA
- <http://www.nces.ed.gov/pubs98/fathers> National Center for Education

- **Parental Involvement Pledge - to recruit and organize parent volunteers—
from the Project Appleseed’s learning compact.**
 - This also contains a parental involvement report card and a parental involvement pledge volunteer information survey.

- **Grant Information regarding Parental Involvement**
 1. The Foundation Center – <http://fdncenter.org>
 2. United States government Grant Resources – <http://pegasus.uthct.edu/OtherUsefulSites/Govt.gweb.htm>
 3. Grants Web – <http://infoserv.rttonet.psu.edu/gweb.htm>
 4. Grantsmanship Center – <http://www.tgci.com>