



Pottsville Junior High School

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2019-2020

Parent and family engagement plays a vital role in the success of every student's education. Studies continuously support that parent/family and guardian involvement in their children's education at home improves student achievement and that parent/family engagement at school results in higher long-term student achievement. Benefits are not limited to the early childhood or elementary years but continue to have a positive impact throughout a student's life. This helps students become lifelong learners. The school and the home must work together in order to enable a child's full potential to be met. It is also recognized that this is especially important for children from families with different cultural and language backgrounds than their prevailing culture.

Pottsville Junior High School recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility that is shared by the parent/family, the child, the school and the community at large. Parent and family engagement must be comprehensive and is built upon the understanding that communication between home and school is two-way. Parent and family engagement is defined as and is to include non-parent guardians, though in this plan the reference is to the simpler "parent" designation. PJHS school policy is a coordinated effort to address these needs and ensure compliance with the State of Arkansas Act 603 of 2003, also to address and comply with the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA)-Section 1010. The plan is designed to involve parents/families of students at the 7th -9th grade levels and in a variety of roles. It is implemented but open to annual review based on developing knowledge and ongoing input from parents/families and staff.

In accordance with Arkansas Act 603, ESSA Section 1010:

6-15-1602

I. Pottsville Junior High School includes programs and practices that enhance parent and family engagement and reflect the needs of students and their families.

II. The PJHS plan is designed to address the unique needs of junior high school students and their parents/families.

- It addresses the parents/families and staff of students in the 7th through 9th grades.
- It is comprehensive and coordinated in nature.
- It builds on an understanding that parent/family and school communication must be regular and two-way.
- Parents/Families are provided an Informational Packet and a student handbook at the beginning of each year. The handbook outlines the school process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define a problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions. Information Packets are developed that are grade appropriate. The information packet will describe (i) the school's parent and family engagement program; (ii) the recommended role of the parent/family, student, teacher, and school; (iii) the ways for parents/families to become involved in the school and his or her child's education; (iv) a survey for the parent/family regarding their interests concerning volunteering at the school; (v) activities planned throughout the school year to encourage parent and family engagement ; and (vi) a system to allow the parents/families and teachers to communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner with the child's teacher and the school principal. (Acts 603 & 307).
- Parents/families, students, teachers and the school all have a role in creating the home and school partnership.

III. Parents/families have the right and the responsibility to support student achievement efforts in these ways : to participate in two-way communication with the school; send their children regularly and prepared for the day's activities; and to be involved at the school.

V. Students have the responsibility to be respectful of themselves, their peers and teachers, to come to school prepared to participate fully in the educational process, and to facilitate parent/family/school communication.

VI. Teachers have the responsibility to provide the information that parents need to help their children, to be responsive to parents/families and provide opportunities for parent involvement in a welcoming environment.

VII. Administrators have the responsibility to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for parents, to provide opportunities for parents/families to be involved either at the school or at home and to clearly communicate school expectations, policies, procedures, and calendars.

VIII. Parents/families can be involved in their children's education through:

- Maintaining communication with their children about the child's school experience.
- Practicing regular communication with their child's teacher and other school personnel.
- Attending school conferences, school meetings, booster clubs, and extra-curricular events as possible.
- Keeping track of school activities, teacher and classroom information through the Pottsville School Web site <http://www.pottsvilleschools.org> and the monthly calendar.
- Keeping track of grades and attendance through the use of Home Access Center (HAC/eSchool), a real time grade book used by the district and state.
- Checking and using the school website online test/project calendars and handbook.
- in the school or at home helping with classroom and school activities.
- In accordance with our ACSIP plan, parents/families and students will be invited to academic nights where teachers, community and students will be involved in sharing active learning activities in small group settings. The school will engage in other activities determined by the school to help a parent/family assist in his or her child's

learning including providing instruction to parents/families on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities at home environment, including without limitation: role play and demonstration by a trained volunteer, the use of and access to the Department of Education website tools for parents/families, assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation and other strategies or curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education.

IX. Activities planned throughout the school year that provide and encourage parent involvement activities include:

- Informing parents/families as to the usage of the school's website, calendar, Remind 101, and notes
- Open house night the first week of school
- Parent/family- teacher conferences are held twice a year at the nine week and five week grading periods – October 17, 2019 & February 13, 2020.
- Progress reports are distributed at 5-week points in new semesters.
- Field trips, band and academic competition trips are held regularly which require parent chaperones.
- Grandparents breakfast
- We have two book fairs and a school dance in which parent/family volunteers assist with setting up and chaperoning
- PJHS has an active PTO that fosters parent/family and community engagement within the school.
- Booster organizations for sports and academic pursuits meet on a regular basis.
- Attend and help with school fundraisers, music, athletic, art, and organizations activities.

X. Pottsville Junior High School has a multi-faceted communication system that invites meaningful two-way communication between parents/families and school personnel.

Communication includes:

- The use of teacher/staff/parent/family e-mail.

- School Messenger, a telephone system for sending mass telephone messages.
- The school website on which each teacher maintains information specific to the classes taught.
- Home Access Center (HAC/eSchool)
- Training office personnel in developing communication skills with parents.
- A written notification system that notifies parents/families of school absences.
- Accountability reports sent home periodically to notify parents/families of academic or behavioral issues.
- My School Bucks (cafeteria account information)
- Parent's/Family's Right to Know – Parents/families have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers(s) and or paraprofessional(s) assisting their student's teacher(s). Parents/families may contact the principal of their student's school or the Superintendent of Schools at 968-8101 with questions. If at any time a student has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher(s) that is not highly qualified, the student's parent will be notified by the school of this information.

XI. Professional Development - In accordance with our ACSIP plan and the State Board of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts, Pottsville School District will provide no fewer than two (2) hours of professional development for teachers. Two (2) hours of professional development will be provided to administrators as well to enhance the understanding of effective parent and family engagement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parent and family participation (professional development on a four year rotating basis).

XII. Community Resources - Pottsville School District recognizes that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning. Pottsville School District has a Task Force committee and

will consider forming a committee of “Alumni Advisors” who wish to become involved by providing advice and guidance for school improvement.

XIII. Parent/Family Materials - A Parent's/Family's Resource area (across from office) has been established to provide parenting materials such as books, magazines and other informative materials regarding responsible parents/families. These materials are available for checkout Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. on days students are in attendance. Free materials from the Department of Education are also made available to parents as available.

XIV. Parent/Family Facilitator – Mrs. Emily Roach serves as the parent/family facilitator for PJHS.

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Roach through the school office at 968-6574 or via email at emily.roach@pottsvilleschools.org with any questions regarding parent and family engagement at PJHS.

XV. Annual Review - This plan is a living document and may be revised and will be reviewed on an annual basis. A copy of the plan will be filed with the Department of Education annually. The effectiveness of the parent and family engagement plan will be evaluated and changes made as warranted. Parents/Families will be surveyed annually and the appropriate data collected throughout the year to help assess parent participation in workshops and meetings, specific needs of parents/families, effectiveness of specific strategies, and the overall engagement of parents/families in activities that support student academic growth. The annual review will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents/families in parent and family engagement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background).

