

Red River Parish School System



District Mission Statement
Red River Parish Schools Provide Excellent Education:
Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes!

PARENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *TITLE I AND OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION*

Booklet for 2023-2024 School Year

Mrs. Alison N. Strong, Superintendent
Dr. Diane Newton, Director of Federal Programs
Mr. Michael Beck, Principal, Red River Elementary
Mr. Norman Picou, Principal, Red River Junior High and Red River High
Ms. Jacqueline Daniels, Principal, Red River Academic Academy
Mrs. Deborah Babers, District Parent Involvement and Engagement Coordinator
Mrs. Katherine Smith, Homeless/Migrant Program Liaison

RED RIVER SCHOOL SYSTEM CREATING A POSITIVE FOCUS ON PARENT, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meaningful parent, family and community engagement assist schools in bringing about children's academic achievement. In addition to each school striving to address individual student abilities and learning needs; parents, family and community engagement are crucial to academic success. When parents, family and community members show strong interest in their children's education, chances improve for a positive attitude toward learning.

Red River Parish School System provides extensive information and services to parents and community members. Being a Title I school system, the district completed extensive planning and additional services to meet responsibilities stated in federal legislation. The district and each school have written plans to assist all parents, family members and community members in becoming an active participant in activities and to encourage and support each parent to become actively engaged in their child's education.

Steps to maintain active parent, family and community relations are evident from

- distribution of extensive information on the district and school websites and in hard copy
- seeking active participation in the work of district and school activities, meetings, and committees

Information is prepared:

- to provide parents with much more detailed information, resources, and support to work more effectively with children as they learn
- to provide to all community members information and resources to enable each to become a participant in district and school-level activities
- to take the initiative to continue to provide all information in the form of policies, plans programs, bulletins, etc. that verify the district's compliance with State and Federal Regulations



INTRODUCTION

Information is designed to continue the focus on the federal legislation of ESSA-Every Student Succeeds Act. Section 1116 of Title I, Part A of the law uses the term the "Parent and Family Engagement," replacing "Parent Involvement." The district will continue to:

- conduct outreach to all parent and family members
- implement programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members developed with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

The district will continue and seek improvement to:

- develop jointly with parents and family members of participation children, listed plan components with completed documents distributed
- evaluate content and effectiveness of the plan and revise as needed

This Booklet may not answer all questions or provide all information needed by individual parents or community members. All persons needing individual assistance are encouraged to directly contact the Red River Parish School District Parent and Family Coordinator as listed.

Deborah Babers, Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator

100 Bulldog Drive, Coushatta, LA 71019.

Telephone 318-932-4081

dbabers@rrbulldogs.com

NOTICE TO PARENTS:

Right to Review Teacher Qualifications

To: ALL PARENTS
From: Mrs. Alison N. Strong, Superintendent
Date: 8/1/2023

As a parent of a student in Red River Parish, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. ESSA Section 1112(e)(1)(A) states LEAs and schools must inform the parents of Title I, Part A students that they may request, and LEA and schools will provide, certain information on the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to the child. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- . whether the Louisiana Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher of the grades and subjects he or she teaches
- . whether the Louisiana Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances
- . the teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees
- . whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call Mr. Dan Pickett, Director of Child Welfare and Attendance at (318) 932-4081 or (318) 271-3143.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION
RED RIVER PARISH PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY
DISTRICT POLICY
(Policy reference Cf:EDDG,KA)

The Red River Parish School Board recognizes that parental involvement must be a priority of the Board for children to learn and achieve academic success. Parents and families provide the primary educational environment for children; consequently, parents are vital and necessary partners with the Board throughout their children's elementary and secondary school careers. The term *parent* shall refer to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, and includes parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, and others. The concept of *parental engagement* shall include programs, services, and/or activities on the school site, as well as contributions of parents outside the normal school setting.

It shall be the policy of the School Board and each public school in Red River Parish, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students, administrators, and other educational resources, to establish, develop and maintain strategies and programs that are intended to enhance the involvement of parents and other caregivers that reflect the needs of students, parents, and families served by the Board, in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. As part of the parental engagement program, it shall be the responsibility of every school to create a welcoming environment, conducive to learning and supportive for comprehensive family engagement programs that have been developed jointly with parents/families.

The Red River Student and Parent Handbook for 2023-2024 contains the full policy as referenced above making it readily available to all parents and family members. Sections are listed below with a summary of requirements within each section:

District Level

- involving parents in the joint development and amendment of the school district plan
- providing coordination of parent programs which involve parents
- coordination and integration of parent involvement programs with others that promote parent involvement
- conducting an annual evaluation of content and effectiveness
- distribution of parent information

School Level

- convening an annual meeting
- offering flexible numbers of meetings, services, and activities
- involving parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in all aspects of parental involvement programs
- providing timely information regarding education and parental involvement programs, description and explanation of curriculum and academic assessment, and opportunities for regular meetings for discussion relating to education of their children

Shared Responsibilities

- an array of required assistance to parents in academics, resources, education for constituencies
- ensuring information in languages parents can understand
- coordinate and conduct outreach programs
- a variety of methods that may be included in the district and/or school parent involvement plans

Parents' Responsibilities include:

- a parent's expectations play a vital role in the intellectual, social, and emotional growth of their children.
- each school shall jointly develop with parents the school-parent compact that outlines how parent, school staff, and students share responsibilities for improved student achievement.

RED RIVER PARISH TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Red River School District presents this Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy according to components set forth in Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) legislation. This policy varies from the School Board Policy Manual Section in that this policy was jointly developed by school staff and parents or family members. Each school level Parent and Family Engagement policy/plan mirrors required components and extends activities and records of implementation. Both district and school-level policies/plans are distributed to all parents of participating children and are included as attachments in Title I Schoolwide Plans.

Part I. General expectations and objectives that Red River School System agrees to implement are based on Public Law 114-95 Sec. 116 Parent and Family Engagement.

- A. Involve parents and family members in the local educational agency's Title I plan under Section 1112, and the development of school support and improvement plans under section 1111(d)
 1. The major focus of the district policy is to support the school level Parent and Family Plans.
 - ensure beginning of year annual meeting and other activities
 - provide direction for other school level requirements, including but not limited to, school-parent compacts
 - assist with development and implementation of district and school-level plans and activities
- B. Communicate with parents according to Section 1116 using extensive methods that include, but not limited to, the following:
 1. provide timely information regarding parent policies and programs to parents and community
 2. provide description and explanation of each school's curriculum and assessments
 3. provide the achievement levels of Louisiana Academic Standards
 4. provide opportunities for parents to meet and participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to the education of their child with response as soon as practicably possible
 5. continue to ensure regular two-way communication between family members and school staff, in a language and format that family members can understand
- C. Use a variety of efforts to coordinate, support and build capacity for each participating school:
 1. support activities to improve student academic achievement
 2. support activities to improve student performance
 3. provide materials and training to help parents support learning at home
 4. foster parent involvement and educational activities such as literacy and technology training
- D. Conduct, with meaningful involvement of parents and family members, and annual evaluation
 1. Evaluation will include both content and effectiveness
 2. Identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities

Part II. To fully implement the Red River School System Title I Parent and Family Engagement plan the district Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator will provide guidance in several areas

1. The district and school plans will be updated yearly as needed.
2. Written records of implementation of district and school level activities will be monitored quarterly.
3. Conduct meaningful annual evaluation using monitoring reports, including content, effectiveness, and actual attendance or input from various sources, including schoolwide team meetings.
4. Recommendations for reducing barriers to participation and improving specific plan components or activities.
5. Provide guidance for decisions regarding reserve funds allotted for parent and family engagement.

Part III. The Red River School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A.

1. Records are on file with the District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator.
2. Policy and school level plans were reviewed in June 2022 and will be distributed to parents of participating Title I, Part A children by no later than September 1, 2022 and following years.

(To be reviewed and revised as needed every three years.)

RED RIVER PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-2024 School Year

Parent Information – School Participation in Title I
Presented to Parents at Various Meetings--Available on District Website

Red River Elementary, Junior High, and High School And Red River Academic Academy are Title I Schoolwide Schools

Title I funds are allocated to each school each year based on district decisions regarding distribution. The advantage of being a Schoolwide Title I school is that once funds are provided to the school, all students can benefit. Each school designs a Schoolwide Plan that includes improvement activities that meet requirements of the current federal law. Schoolwide Plans set goals and objectives to be met by the end of the school year. Progress is reviewed throughout the year through meetings of Schoolwide Teams and the Schoolwide Plan is evaluated at the end of the school year. Major evaluation is based on results of Louisiana Accountability Data.

Title I Schoolwide Plans include all required elements. Plans are based on a district and school needs assessment updated yearly. Schoolwide strategies for improvement are a major element in each plan. One specific element includes student support services directed at helping at-risk meet state standards. High school plans include the element of student opportunities to prepare students for postsecondary education credit while still in high school. Tiered intervention and effective professional development are included within other elements. Early childhood transition is included in the elementary plan.

Title I funds are used in collaboration with local, state, and other federal funds to be able to provide the most resources possible to each school and student. Budgets indicate type funds and use.

Parents serve as members of each schoolwide plan. However, with health restrictions lifted, all parents and family members are invited to attend schoolwide team meetings.

Copies of each Schoolwide Plan are available to parents and community members by request from the school principal and/or district parent center. Appointments can be made with appropriate school leaders to discuss and/or obtain more detailed information.

RED RIVER PARISH TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY OFFICE

100 Bulldog Drive 318-932-4081

The purpose of the Title I Parent Office is to serve as a resource for parents and family members to encourage and support children in their academic and social growth. In the future the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator will be working from an office in the new district administration building. The Coordinator will be able to assist parents and community members in an adjacent work space and by working with them at the schools to secure materials for assistance. The Parent Coordinator is a positive link between the home and the schools and is a parent/family advocate. The Coordinator works closely with the schools and can assist with school level parent activities.

The Coordinator will continue to assist staff in using equipment located in the administration building. For teachers, the Parent Center provides equipment for making posters, laminating items, copying on a limited basis, letter-making, and book binding.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Red River School Board provides services for students when families live in a variety of situations. These may include living in a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground; on the street; in an abandoned building, trailer, other inadequate accommodations; or doubled up with friends or relatives due to not finding or affording housing. Preschool-aged and school-aged children have certain rights or protections under the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the district coordinator will provide for families full information, assist with securing services and follow-up with students and families on a regular schedule.

The McKinney-Vento Act Education for Homeless Children and Youth program provides students experiencing homelessness with protections and services to ensure they can enroll in and attend school, complete their high school education and continue to higher education their best hope of avoiding poverty and homelessness as adults.

ESSA provides all children and youth in foster care with core protections for school stability and school access through a statutory vehicle that is separate from the McKinney-Vento Act and that outlines clear, distinct and appropriate responsibilities for both the education and child welfare agencies.

A Migrant Education Program is available to ensure that all migrant students reach challenging academic standards and graduate with a high school diploma or a Hiset Diploma that prepares them for responsible citizenship as well as productive employment.

The Board employs a full time Liaison to administer the program and ensure that students receive assistance needed to enroll in a district school, receive services when enrolled in the district schools, and additional assistance if students move from one school or district to another. The Liaison is an advocate for both the program itself and qualifying families and students. For further information contact:

**Katherine Smith, Homeless/Migrant Liaison and Contact for Foster Care Program
Red River Parish School Board, P. O. Box 410, Coushatta, LA 71019 or
100 Bulldog Drive - Coushatta, LA 71019**

Other Red River Parish School Board Federal Programs

Title II

“PREPARING, TRAINING, AND RECRUITING HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS”

The purpose of this title is to provide funds to increase student academic achievement by elevating teacher and principal quality through recruitment, hiring, and retention strategies and to hold local educational agencies and schools accountable for improvements in student academic achievement.

Title IV

“STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT GRANT”

ESSA reflects the civil rights tradition of ESEA, which reflects our nation’s longstanding commitment to equity of opportunity for all students. The new law has a clear goal of ensuring our education system prepares every child to graduate from high school ready to thrive in college and careers. Newly authorized under subpart 1 Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program is intended to help meet these goals by increasing the capacity of State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), schools and local communities to:

- 1) Provide all students with access to well-rounded education,
- 2) Improve school conditions for student learning, and
- 3) Improve the use of technology to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.

Title V

“RURAL AND LOW-INCOME SCHOOL PROGRAM”

The purpose of this title is to assist rural school districts in using Federal resources more effectively to improve the quality of instruction and student academic achievement. The RLIS program is an initiative that provides grant funds to rural LEAs that serve concentrations of children from low-income families. RLIS funds may be used to support a range of authorized activities to assist LEAs in meeting adequate yearly progress.

“MIGRANT EDUCATION BASIC STATE GRANT”

The purpose of the Migrant Education Basic State Grant program is to provide funding to eligible entities to help migratory children to overcome educational disruption, cultural language barriers, social isolation and other factors that inhibit the ability of such children to achieve high academic standards.

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RRPSB COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

It shall be the policy of the Red River Parish School Board that written allegations concerning local school policy, or concerns about school matters be submitted to the principal of the school. If the matter cannot be settled at this level the matter should then be presented to the Superintendent in writing with all allegations documented and signed.

It shall further be the responsibility of the principal of the school and Superintendent to document any and all meetings of this nature.

These documents shall be made available to the School Board members in the event these matters reach the School Board.

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Constructive criticism of the schools is welcomed by the Red River Parish School Board whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program or to equip the schools to do their tasks more effectively. The School Board has, however, confidence in its professional staff and desires to support their actions in order that they be free from unnecessary, spiteful, or negative criticism and complaint. Therefore, whenever a complaint is made directly to the School Board as a whole or to a School Board member as an individual, **it will be referred to the principal or designee of the school** for study and possible solution.

The School Board shall require the Superintendent and staff to maintain and disseminate information to parents, legal guardians, and the public on the proper process and contact information to be used when making complaints.

The School Board will consider hearing citizen complaints when they cannot be resolved by the administration (teacher, principal, and Superintendent). Matters referred to the School Board shall be submitted through the Superintendent and must be in writing and should be specific in terms of the action desired. The School Board shall not consider or act on complaints that have not been explored at the appropriate administrative level.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Complaints or concerns about special programs received at the school building level shall be handled in accordance with the complaint process listed above. Concerns about the general operation of the special program should be directed to the director/coordinator of the program. Resolution of the public's concerns

should occur as quickly as possible but should generally take no longer than ten (10) working days.