



Westcliffe Elementary

105 Eastbourne Road * Greenville, SC * 29611 * 864/355-0300 * fax 864/355-0360

SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY 2017-2018

To implement an effective Parent and Family Engagement Policy and plan to support students' academic success, Westcliffe will do the following:

- A. Involve parents in the joint development, review and improvement of the Title I plan, Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact and process of school review and improvement through the following:
 - We will invite parents to meetings to inform them of the school's participation in Title I, explain the requirements of the program, notify them of their right to be involved and request their participation in the development of the Schoolwide Title I plan by determining the school's needs and how best to use Title I funds to meet those needs.
 - We will review our School-Parent Compact and Parent and Family Engagement Policy annually outlining how the staff, parents and students will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement data.
- B. Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities, to foster parent involvement and to improve student academic achievement and school performance through the following:
 - We will provide materials and trainings to help parents work with their children to improve student achievement and maintain a Family Engagement Center with materials available for checkout.
 - We will provide training to school staff to strengthen parent involvement.
 - We will solicit 100% attendance for parent-teacher conferences the first quarter of school. All parents will be encouraged to attend third quarter conferences and to schedule others as needed or requested.
 - Parents will receive assistance with interpretation of major student assessments and standardized test results.
- C. Build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement through the following:
 - We will solicit parents to volunteer in the classrooms and in other school activities and to participate in decisions about the school and school programs.
 - All teachers will maintain a webpage, or provide newsletters, to inform parents of instructional objectives, units of study, school news, upcoming events, and deadlines for projects.
 - We will provide reasonable access for parent-teacher conferences and observations of classroom activities.
 - We will notify parents with flyers, telephone calls, postings on the school marquee, and the school webpage calendar of involvement opportunities, parent programs, and support services in a timely manner.
- D. Coordinate and integrate Title I parent involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs.
 - We will work with the PTA, School Improvement Council (SIC), community agencies and businesses to offer parent programs and increase parent participation in the school processes.
 - We will afford numerous opportunities for school/community participation in parent trainings in literacy, academic and curriculum standards, and parenting skills.
- E. Conduct, with parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving the academic quality of the school, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in school related 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, use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement; and revise, if necessary, the parent involvement policies described. Procedures will include the following:

- We will solicit parental input to aid in our evaluation of our parent involvement program.
 - We will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, in an easy to read format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents understand.
- F. Involve parents in the activities of the school and forward all information to parents related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand and in a timely manner.
- We will provide social work services for students and parents to assist with the home-school connection.
 - We will inform and invite parents of all school and parent programs, meetings and activities, and keep records of attendance and involvement.
 - We will solicit parents as volunteers or to serve on committees for input into decisions about the school and school programs.
 - Parents will be provided a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels that students are expected to meet.
 - Parents will be informed of the state academic standards, student achievement standards, local assessments, and how to monitor their children's academic progress and work with teachers to improve student achievement.
- G. Make accommodations to support parent involvement at the district and school levels through the following:
- Arrange school and parent meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children in order to maximize parental involvement and participation.
 - Encourage parent involvement by paying reasonable and necessary expenses, if necessary, associated with transportation and childcare costs to enable participation in school-related meetings and training sessions.
 - Provide training of parents, if needed, to train other parents to enhance the involvement.
 - Participate in district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported by the law.
 - Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.
 - The Staff of Westcliffe responds to all written or oral parent concerns, suggestions, requests for meetings, recommendations, or communications related to the school program within 24 hours or by the next school day, whichever comes first.
- H. Provide all parents of participating Title I students' access to the LEA's Parent and Family Engagement Policy by October 31 of each year.
- I. Provide all parents of students in Title I schools information about their right to know the qualifications of their children's teachers, paraprofessionals, or substitute teachers. Notice of this right of any person who does not meet the highly qualified criteria required by No Child Left Behind will be forwarded to parents by October 31 of each year.