

District Name: Arkansas Connections Academy
Coordinator Name: Nicole Stephens
Plan Review/Revision Date: 7/9/2025
District Level Reviewer, Title: Nicole Stephens, Executive Director

Committee Members

Nicole Stephens, School Leader
Paige McKee, Parent and Family Outreach
Daniel Cisar- Assistant Principal
Russell Powell- Secondary Teacher
Emily Colston- Success Coach
Sarah Greenbank- Director of Student Success
Jonathon Irvin- Parent
Beth Lee- Director of Special Education
Stephanie Dicamillo- School Counselor

Michael Harrison- Assistant Principal
Mark Reider- Assistant Principal
Angela Farmer- Assistant Principal
Melissa Cruise, Parent and Board Member

1: Jointly Developed

Describe how the School works with parents and families to develop and review relevant plans, policies, and strategies related to engagement.

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is reviewed and revised annually by several groups of stakeholders including, but not limited to, the School Leader, teachers, parents, students, community members, school leadership team, Federal Programs Support, and the Board of Directors. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy may be reviewed at the Title I Annual Parent Meetings and the Title I Planning Committee Meetings. Stakeholders who cannot attend the meetings are given the opportunity to obtain a copy of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and submit input before the final revisions are approved. School will consult with military service members to determine the specific needs of military families. Staff work closely with families on a regular basis to determine specific academic improvement needs including practices and programs that enhance engagement and address specific engagement needs of students and their families.

2: Communication

Describe how the School will communicate with and distribute information to parents and families.

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is distributed to all teachers, parents, and students within the first two months of the school year via WebMail with a "read receipt required" and as a "must read" (if possible). A link to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy is included in the School's Handbook, which is available 24/7 in the EMS.

The School ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of all participating children, including parents with limited English

proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, in a format and language parents can understand (including alternative formats upon request) and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- The School makes effective use of all available technologies to distribute information to parents including those within EMS such as email and Message Boards and Social Media.
- In addition, parents are encouraged to set up conferences to discuss their student's performance.
- Regular newsletters announce upcoming school events and are available online to all parents.
- Certain critical communications may also be provided in print format. For example, the parent training modules are available in print as well as online, and official communications from the school about compliance or discipline issues are also provided via hard-copy mail.
- The school also develops and makes available a school handbook that details all policies and procedures specific to the school. Translation of materials or availability of materials in other formats (e.g., for those who have difficulty with their vision) are made available upon request.

The School will coordinate with the leadership at Department of the Airforce to request the help of the military chain of command to disseminate information on the engagement program, ways for families to get involved, and volunteer opportunities for service members and their spouses. The School will coordinate with the leadership at Department of the Airforce to present information at unit or installation family readiness activities.

3: Building Staff Capacity

Describe the activities that will be used with school staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners.

Arkansas Connections Academy is committed to providing high-quality and ongoing professional development for both parents and staff to improve instruction and drive toward proficiency on academic standards. Each year, at the start of the school year, Arkansas Connections Academy provides teacher training and professional development programs to equip teachers which includes training on parent-centered practices such as how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; how to build ties between parents and the school; how to include parents in development of student personalized learning plan; how staff and families can work collaboratively in the best interest of each student. These trainings include how to work closely with families to support the needs of the student for success. The School will invite military service members or their spouses to attend staff meetings to educate faculty members about the needs of the military community and the challenges that military children face. Parents who volunteer as community coordinators work closely with appropriate staff at the school and are provided training each year on how to implement and coordinate parent programs and events.

4: Building Parent Capacity

Describe how the School provides opportunities to build parents' capacity to play a role in their children's academic success. This may include workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, Academy Parent-Teacher Team meetings or providing equipment or other materials.

- Students have the opportunity to participate regularly in both face-to-face and virtual community activities. Face-to-face activities include field trips and community outings. Teachers use the telephone quite extensively in communicating with students and parents.

- WebMail is the proprietary private email system included in the EMS. WebMail is a "closed" system. Students, parents, and teachers may only use it to communicate with each other, and are protected from spam, contact from strangers, and other mainstream email issues.
- Other examples of support to be provided for parent involvement activities include, but are not limited to: providing multiple ways to attend meetings (face-to-face, phone, LiveLesson sessions, and recordings), translating materials upon request, and holding one-on-one meetings and so forth. Each Title I, Part A school will offer flexible meeting times and provide information to parents about the school's program, including a parent information guide. Nicole Stephens is responsible for monitoring each Title I, Part A school to ensure that the aforementioned tasks occur.
- The parent and family outreach specialist will work closely with families throughout the school year to provide them with assistance/training and support on how to best support their student's learning journey including providing responsible parenting materials and resources for developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment.
- School will coordinate with the leadership at the Department of the Airforce to invite military service members and their families to participate in workshops and special events for parents.

5. Coordination of Services

Describe how the School will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners, including alumni, to provide additional supports, services, and resources to families.

Arkansas Connections Academy has students all over the state. The resources for families vary depending on the area in which they live. We have a document where we compile the list of available resources for families by county. As a need arises, we reach out to resources in that community to provide additional support. Once resources are located, they are added to our document so that we can provide the information to other families in that area as needed. School will coordinate with the leadership at the Department of the Airforce to provide information to military service members and their families on preschool programs, wraparound programs, and organizations and activities to help students transition to elementary, middle, high, and postsecondary schools or careers.

6. Annual Title I Meeting

Describe the details regarding the Annual Title I meeting used to inform parents of the requirements of Title I, the School's participation, and the parents' right to be involved.

The School's Title I Annual Parent meeting will be held within the first two months of the school year. School will coordinate with the leadership at the Department of the Airforce to provide information to military service members and their families on the date, time, location, and agenda for the annual Title I meeting. The agenda, sign-in sheet and minutes for the meeting will be kept on file at the ARCA office. Paige McKee is responsible for conducting the meeting and can be contacted at 417-386-0292

7. School-Parent Compact

(Describe the process the School will follow to jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact as required under Title I, Part A.

The School-Parent Compact is reviewed and revised annually by several groups of stakeholders including, but not limited to, the School Leader, teachers, parents, students, community members, school leadership team, Federal Programs Support, and the Board of Directors. The School-Parent Compact may be reviewed at the Title I Annual Parent Meetings and the Title I Planning Committee Meetings. The School will invite military family members to participate in developing the School-Parent Compact and will coordinate with the leadership at the Department of the Airforce to provide information to military service members and their families on how to access the School-Parent Compact. Stakeholders who cannot attend the meetings are given the opportunity to obtain a copy of the School-Parent Compact and submit input before the final revisions are approved.

8: Reservation of Funds

Describe how the school uses Title I, Part A funds set-aside for parent and family engagement programs and activities.

ARCA (single building district) uses set-aside funds to cover partial salary of a staff person acting as the Parent and Family Outreach coordinator/specialist who will work closely with all families to determine specific needs and provide families, including military services members and their families, with resources, services, and activities for engagement in their child's education.