



## Arden Elementary School Parent & Family Engagement Policy 2021 - 2022

**The Arden Elementary policy on parent engagement has been developed jointly with, agreed upon with, and distributed to parents of participating children. Arden Elementary has high regard and much respect for the parents of its students and therefore:**

(A) Arden shall involve parents by inviting identified/select parents to attend Arden's Parent Advisory Council (consisting of School Improvement Council and Parent Teacher Organization members) meetings where they will serve on committees to assist in developing and reviewing the school-wide plans and the School Improvement Plans. Parents will also complete an annual survey, which will provide program format, preferred service delivery techniques methods of communication with parents, suggested workshops and seminars needed by parents to support their efforts in education their children. Parents will actively participate as Parent Ambassadors in Parents and Family Engagement activities throughout the school year. Parents will continuously be informed about the school's progress through school report cards and notices to parents.

(B) Arden Elementary shall provide the coordination of, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist parents in working with community partners, planning, and implementing effective parent involvement activities (Action Team Planning) to improve student academic achievement and school performance through joint meetings of other such school organizations, such as School Improvement Council, Parent Teacher Organization, and the Parent Advisory Council. Workshops and training may be provided periodically to help parents learn how to help their children succeed in school. Arden will also collaborate with community partners (i.e. Richland County Library, College Place Community Council, Alpha Kappa Alpha Gamma Nu Chapter, and the Spring Valley Rotary Club) to support Parent and Family Engagement.

(C) Arden Elementary in collaboration with parents, will develop the School Parent Compact that will be used to build strong and meaningful parental relationships. This agreement will establish how teachers, parents and students will share the responsibility for improving students' academic achievement. Parent surveys are sent to all Parent Advisory Council members for input on programs, training, materials and functions.

(D) Initiatives are underway to involve parents at Arden Elementary through SIC (School Improvement Council), PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), CERDEP (Child Early Reading Development Education Program), Parent University, curriculum nights, student-led conferences, parent-teacher conferences, career day, AVID nights, reading day, and student recognition day/night. Parents are also informed and encouraged to participate in district programs and trainings.

(E) An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Family Engagement Policy will be conducted, through an analysis of attendance, parent surveys, questionnaires and program evaluation data to determine the effectiveness of our Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Particular attention will be paid to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. Also, efforts will be made to determine why parents do not participate including barriers, such as lack of transportation, absence of child care, work schedules, unsuitable meeting times or locations, or lack of interest. The findings of the annual parent engagement evaluation surveys will be used to determine what changes should be made and by whom, so that we can make the parental involvement programs more effective and if needed, to revise the parent involvement policies.

(F) Parents will be actively involved in the development of the Parent Engagement Policy by serving on planning committees and completing written surveys. The policy will be disseminated to parents during annual Title I meetings, School Improvement Council meetings, and Parent Teacher Organization meetings. The Title I Plan will be available in the school's front office, media center, and on the school's website. Parents are encouraged to be involved in all school activities including trainings, activities, workshops, and conferences.

