

Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind

Parent and Family Engagement Plan Summary

1. Purpose and Commitment

The Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind recognizes that family and community engagement is essential to student success. Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind commits to fostering meaningful partnerships with families, ensuring equity, accessibility, and responsiveness for all.

2. Development and Review

A representative Parent and Family Engagement Committee (PFEC) will develop and review the Engagement Plan annually.

- Stakeholders include parents, teachers, community members, and administrators.
- The plan will be aligned with state, federal, and IDEA/Section 504 regulations.
- Posted on Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind's website and updated via public annual review.

3. Communication

Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind will use multiple channels including ParentSquare, email, website updates, social media, and newsletters.

- All communication will be accessible (braille, large print, translated, and plain language). Larger communications may be sent out in video format.
- Parents may contact staff via school emails and ParentSquare.
- Regular updates include school news, student progress, and calendar of events.

4. Parent Involvement and Volunteerism

Open House, Parent Orientation, and at least two scheduled Parent-Teacher conferences annually.

- Monthly Friends of Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind meetings and quarterly virtual engagement sessions.
- Parents encouraged to volunteer on campus, virtually, or from home. Interest surveys will be distributed each semester.
- Volunteer training and background screening offered annually.

5. Support and Capacity Building

A Parent Resource Center will be maintained offering access to literature, technology, and training.

- Parent workshops tied to student events such as Braille Challenge, Cane Quest, and Deaf Awareness Week.
- Free ASL classes and VI workshops for parents/guardians.
- Reasonable accommodations will be made for parents with disabilities or language needs.

6. Title I and Compliance

Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind will host an annual Title I meeting detailing school participation, parental rights, and program expectations.

- The Engagement Plan will be filed with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education via Indistar.

7. Staff Training and Collaboration

All staff will complete a minimum of two hours of parent engagement PD every four years (or annually as needed).

- Topics will include communication strategies, inclusive practices, and collaborative IEP development.
- Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind will partner with health agencies, cooperatives, alumni associations, and other statewide services to enhance resources.

8. Evaluation and Feedback

Annual surveys will be conducted to assess parent satisfaction, accessibility, and policy effectiveness.

- Parents may submit feedback year-round through ParentSquare or during conferences.
- The PFEC will review feedback and revise plans accordingly.