

**Prairie View Elementary School
Parent Involvement Policy
2015-2016**

The Prairie View Elementary School Annual Title I meetings will be convened on:
Tuesday, August 11, 2015 @ 5:30 p.m. in the school Gym. Open House to Follow 6:00-7:00
Monday, September 28, 2015 @ 6:30 in the Café of our school (Primary Parents)
Thursday, January 7, 2016 @ 6:30 in the Library of our school (Intermediate Parents)

All parents were notified by several means:

- ✓ Bobcat Chat (parent newsletter)
- ✓ Letter sent home with students
- ✓ Announced at P.T.O. meetings
- ✓ Posted on School web site
- ✓ School Messenger Notifications

These meetings were held to inform parents of Prairie View's participation in Title I programming:

- ✓ School-wide program-funds are distributed among **all** students
- ✓ Prairie View School – 47% poverty rate
- ✓ Six positions covered through Title I
 - Two Title I Teachers
 - Three 21st Century Program Instructors
 - One Title I Instructional Aide

and to explain the requirements of the school:

- ✓ Highly qualified staff members
- ✓ Aligned curriculum and instructional materials
- ✓ High quality academic assessments
- ✓ Participate in federal and state accountability systems

and the right of the parents to be involved:

- ✓ Student/Parent/Staff Compact
- ✓ To provide parents with a venue to receive information and ask questions
- ✓ Parent Advisory Group
- ✓ P.T.O.
- ✓ Parent Resource Center
- ✓ Affording parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children
 - Study Trip Participants
 - Library Helpers
 - Classroom Volunteers
 - Family Literacy Events
 - Family Math Events
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - Academic Honor Celebrations

Our parent meetings are held making provision for a flexible schedule and will provide information in a language the parents can understand. Our parents will be provided opportunities to provide suggestions, interact and share experiences with other parents, and participate appropriately in the decisions-making process about the programs and the improvement and Title I plans of our school.

At our meetings, we will review our curriculum, our means of assessment, and the proficiency levels students our students are expected to achieve and maintain.

Please see specific information to be provided from staff members written below.

Curriculum

Curriculum maps are accessible to all teachers for the subject areas in which they teach. They can be accessed on-line, they can also be found in the Office of the Curriculum Director.

Prairie View Elementary School implements a balanced literacy model for the teaching of reading and writing. The reading workshop is the basis of our reading curriculum. It includes a mini lesson, a read aloud, guided reading, independent practice time, and a sharing time. The writing curriculum consists of the writing workshop which follows the same procedures as the reading workshop of a mini lesson, independent practice, and a sharing time. The Six Traits Writing resource is used as well. Envision Math is the resource used in all grades. The FOSS science kits are used to support our science resources. FOSS is an inquiry based learning program. Social Studies is taught based on our Indiana Academic Standards, using the textbook as a resource. The grade level focuses are: K-1 Neighborhood, 2-Our Community, 3-Communities, 4-Indiana, 5-US History, and 6-World History. This year we will support our social studies curriculum with Junior Achievement for all classes.

Assessment

Students are assessed regularly throughout the year in multiple ways. We use standardized assessments, traditional assessments, and authentic assessments to show student progress. (All of the following examples are explained in greater detail below.) Examples of standardized tests are Dibles, MClass, Acuity, IREAD3 and ISTEP+. Traditional assessments are math tests, spelling tests, and social science tests. Teachers make observation notes during reading and writing workshops, take notes during student reading conferences and use rubrics as authentic assessment tools.

Dibles, MClass and Acuity are computerized testing instrument used each school year in grades K-5. A range of scores is provided for each grade level to show student achievement. Dibles and MClass measure reading, and Acuity measures Language Arts and math skills.

In addition to the ISTEP+ test, we are currently looking to introduce locally written writing prompts for each grade level. The goal is to achieve a score of four out of six in writing quality (applications) and a three out of four in grammar/capitalization/punctuation/spelling (conventions) on the ISTEP+ rubric.

Indiana's ISTEP+ Test is a spring test. Students will participate in ISTEP+ testing in February and April. Student reports are mailed home in when scores become available.

Students in Grade 3 will take Indiana's I-Read Test in February. Students must pass this assessment to receive promotion to grade 4. Students that do not pass this test of reading skills will be expected to attend summer remediation and re-take the test. A student that does not pass will either be retained in grade 3 or must meet the qualifications for a waiver to grade 4.

Kindergarteners are assessed with a locally developed kindergarten assessment and reported each grading period to parents. The same skills are assessed throughout the school year to note progress and areas that need more focus.

Parents will be provided information concerning both our school's performance and their own students' performances on standardized testing. This will be accomplished through communication on our school's

website, letters sent via mail to parents, and during parent meetings at the school. The staff at Prairie View will assist parents in assuring regular attendance, monitoring television watching, providing adequate time and proper environment for homework, and guiding in nutritional and health practices. This assistance will be provided through the principal's office, the office of the school counselor, the health office, and from teachers.

Community Resources

Various community resources are available to Prairie View parents, including information on parenting and discipline; medical, dental, and health information; and brochures on area recreation opportunities for students. These materials are located in The Parent Resource Center. Parents should sign in at the main office before utilizing the Resource Center.

Periodically throughout the school year, social agencies are highlighted in the school newsletter to keep parents informed of available assistance within the community. In addition, printouts of social agencies are available to parents by contacting the school counselor.

Community Agencies:

- Youth Service Bureau
- Dunebrook
- Big Brother/Big Sisters
- The Advocacy Center
- Local Area Churches / Food Banks
- Super Shot Free Immunizations
- LaPorte County WIC Office
- IU Health – LaPorte Hospital
- Salvation Army
- YMCA of LaPorte

Prairie View School assists in the transition of pre-school children by attending IEP case conference meetings for placement and programming of students. In addition, pre-school parents and staff are provided communication and procedure documents for Prairie View School. Pre-school students and teachers have access to equipment, materials, library services and other building space. Kindergarten Registration is held annually in the spring to provide parents with information and enroll students in our kindergarten programs. Our Success by Six program is held for incoming kindergarten students prior to the start of fall semester.

The Indiana Partnership Center: *A not-for profit Parent Information and Resource Center, funded in part, by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, serving the families of Indiana, helping to ensure the academic success of Hoosier children.*

The IPC publishes a newsletter, Partners in Learning. This resource is available by visiting Prairie View's Parent Resource Center. You may also contact Indiana's Parent Information & Resource Center (PIRC) at 921 E. 86th Street Suite 108, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240 or calling (317) 205-2595, toll free at (317) 205-9790 or log on to www.fscp.org.

All school personnel will provide timely responses to parents' questions, concerns, and recommendations.

Additionally, the staff at Prairie View Elementary School will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by committing to the following:

- ✓ Provide parents and community members written information about the community resources that are provided in our area.
- ✓ Provide parents information about how to register for pre-school classes, which meet daily in our building.
- ✓ Inform parents about where they can find additional information about parent involvement from such places as the Parent Information Resource Center.
- ✓ Relay to parents ideas about how they can set the stage for learning in everyday activities at home such as
 - Setting a good example by reading in front of their children.
 - Setting aside a family reading time.
 - Taking their children to the library.
 - Learning ways to build math and reasoning skills together.
 - Providing ways parents can help their children with homework.
 - Providing to each of our parents a Family Involvement Survey. This will provide our staff information on how we can best serve our families and break down barriers to parent involvement.

Questions, comments and concerns regarding this Parent Involvement Policy or Prairie View's Schoolwide Plan may be submitted verbally or in writing to:

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