

Northside Elementary Family and Community Engagement Plan

School Name:

Northside Elementary

Facilitator:

Michelle Atherton
michelle.atherton@cps.k12.ar.us
501-743-3568

Plan Review/Revision Date:

June 3, 2026

District Level Reviewer, Title:

Emily Taylor, Director of Counseling
Jordan Boris, District Social Worker

District Level Approval Date:

June 5, 2026

Committee Members, Role:

Michelle Atherton, Facilitator
Miriam Berryhill, Principal
Haylee Loter, Counselor
Makenzie Rodgers, Parent and PTO Member
Heidi Sharp, Parent and PTO Member
Jennifer Cherry, Community Partner
Ian Walton, Military Service Member

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

(Describe/List how parents will be involved in the development of the school family and community engagement plan and how parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of family and community engagement programs.)

- Families are involved in the development of the Family and Community Engagement Plan (FACE). (Michelle Atherton, Spring 2027)
- Families will be involved in the review, evaluation, update, and improvement of the FACE plan annually to meet the changing needs of the school community. Our FACE Plan will be reviewed as needed by the committee members. Results from the Northside Parent Survey will be considered in updating and improving the FACE plan. (Michelle Atherton, ongoing)
- Northside Elementary will ensure that parents are adequately represented in a variety of roles: (Miriam Berryhill, ongoing)
 - Parent Teacher Organization
 - School Improvement Committees
 - Guiding Coalition Team
 - Volunteer opportunities to help during family events including: Book Fair, Winter Themed Family Night, Family Glow Night, and Family Game Night
 - Volunteer opportunities for classroom holiday parties
 - Volunteer opportunities daily to help open car doors at drop off and make copies and other administrative tasks in our work room.
 - Library assistant, reading buddy, Book Fair helpers, Track and Field Day volunteers
- Northside Elementary will provide opportunities for regular meetings as requested. (Miriam Berryhill, ongoing)
- As a Purple Star School District, Cabot Public Schools is committed to supporting military families. The district will run a report of military connected families quarterly to identify any families new to the district in order to better welcome and support them during this transition. (Emily Taylor, Jordan Boris, quarterly)
- Northside Elementary will enable and support a parent teacher organization (PTO). (Miriam Berryhill, Lisa Ralph, ongoing)

2: Communication

(Describe/List how the family and community engagement policy will be distributed to parents and how the school is going to communicate with parents including information about how the school will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.)

- The FACE facilitator and contact information is:

Michelle Atherton
michelle.atherton@cps.k12.ar.us
501-743-3568

- Northside Elementary will make the FACE plan available to families and the local community electronically on the school website by August 1. Printed copies are available as requested. (Michelle Atherton, August 2027)
- The plan is written in an understandable and uniform format in a language families can understand. A translation service, Transperfect, is available. (Melanie Duerkop, August 2026)
- Northside Elementary will distribute information annually that includes the following:
 - A description of FACE plans in the Student Handbook (Michelle Atherton, August 2026)
 - Building specific FACE plans can be found on our district website by clicking the “Departments” tab and then finding “Counseling.” (Michelle Atherton, August 2026)
 - Recommended roles of families (as listed in section 1 of this plan)
 - Ways for families to be involved in a variety of roles (as listed in section 1 of this plan)
 - A survey of volunteer interests
 - A schedule of planned activities throughout the school year
 - A system of regular, two-way communication for families and teachers including phone calls, emails, Class Dojo, and social media pages and groups
- Northside Elementary will obtain signatures from families acknowledging receipt and location of the District FACE plan through back to school and new student registration using the online registration platform. (Michelle Atherton, October 2026)
- Family meetings will be offered at various times. (Miriam Berryhill, ongoing)
- Parent meetings will be offered in various formats including Google Meet. (Miriam Berryhill, ongoing)
- The school will distribute a digital weekly newsletter to families developed by the principal. It includes school news, a calendar of school activities, and parenting tips related to school achievement such as homework tips, organizational skills, and study skills. (Miriam Berryhill and Michelle Atherton, ongoing)
- Each child will receive a communications folder to encourage regular two-way communication between home and school. It will be sent home daily by the teacher with important communications and is expected to be returned to school each day. (Michelle Atherton, ongoing)
- Parents may contact the District Family and Community Engagement Facilitator if the Title I plan is not satisfactory (Emily Taylor, ongoing)

3: Building Staff Capacity

(Describe/List activities such as workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, online resources, and Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings that will be used with school staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners.

Describe/List methods of parents' assistance for building staff capacity.

Describe/List actions the school will take to provide other reasonable support for family and community engagement activities.)

- Northside Elementary will ensure professional development requirements are met for teachers and administrators. The yearly schedule of state required topics, including family and community engagement, will be followed. (Pam Wilson, ongoing)
- Teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, will participate in district-approved professional development in areas including, but not limited to:
 - Parents playing an integral role in assisting student learning
 - The value and utility of the contributions of parents
 - How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
 - Implementing and coordinating parent programs and building ties between home and school
 - Welcoming parents into the school and seeking parental support and assistance
- Northside Elementary will provide information in a format, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. (Melanie Duerkop, ongoing)
- Northside Elementary will respond to parent requests for family and community engagement activities. (Miriam Berryhill, ongoing)
- Parents are recognized as a full partner and the process for resolving conflicts is included in the school handbook. (Michael Byrd, ongoing)

4: Building Parent Capacity

(Describe/List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to support parents in helping their student's academic success.)

- Northside Elementary will schedule regular family and community engagement meetings. These meetings will provide information to help parents enhance their child's education as well as to provide opportunities to volunteer or help support their child's school. (Miriam Berryhill, Michelle Atherton, ongoing)
 - Open House in August

- Parent Teacher Conferences October and March
- Monthly PTO meetings
- Family Reading, Math, and Science Nights
- Math and Reading goals identified on the School Improvement Plan will be pursued through school sponsored family and community events, like STEM night and family reading night, therefore aligning the School Improvement Plan goals and priorities with FACE events. (Michelle Atherton, ongoing)
- Northside Elementary aligns its School Improvement Plan with family and community engagement efforts by ensuring meaningful two way communication about academic priorities and efforts outlined in the School Improvement Plan during FACE/PTO meetings. (Michelle Atherton, ongoing)
- Northside Elementary will also make available the findings and goals from the School Improvement Plan so that academic priorities and efforts for the school year are clearly communicated. (Liz Massey, ongoing)
- Northside Elementary will provide descriptions of the student curriculum on the district website. (Liz Massey, ongoing)
- Northside Elementary will provide families with individual student academic assessment results and interpretation of those results upon request. (Miriam Berryhill, Michelle Atherton, ongoing)
- Northside Elementary will provide families with a description and explanation of the assessments used to measure student progress and achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. (Miriam Berryhill, Michelle Atherton, Ongoing)
- Northside Elementary will provide assistance and instruction to parents of children served by the school in understanding these topics:
 - Arkansas Academic Standards
 - State and local academic assessments
 - Strategies parents can use to support their child's academic achievement
 - Partnering with teachers to support their child's academic achievements
 - Incorporating developmentally appropriate learning activities
 - Use of DESE website and tools for parents
 - Assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation
 - Role play and demonstration(Miriam Berryhill, Michelle Atherton, Lindsay MacMillan, ongoing)
- Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. Northside Elementary will assist parents in understanding the requirements of Title I, Part A during the Title I meeting. (Miriam Berryhill, September 2026)
- Northside Elementary will promote and support responsible parenting by maintaining a Parent Resource Center that provides materials and training to

help families work with their children to improve academic achievement.
(Michelle Atherton, ongoing)

5: Coordination

(Describe/List how the district and/or school will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families.)

- Northside Elementary will utilize community resources to benefit students and families. (Miriam Berryhill, ongoing)
 - Junior Auxiliary of Cabot provides a picture book to each first grade student.
 - The local 4-H organization will provide hands-on experiences for our fourth grade students to learn by doing.
- Northside Elementary will coordinate and integrate family and community engagement activities to include early childhood programs and/or college & career readiness resources as appropriate. (Michelle Atherton, classroom teachers, ongoing)
 - Northside Elementary will coordinate with Cabot Middle School South and Cabot Middle School North to help provide a smooth transition from one school to the next by raising parental awareness. Schools will work together to allow 4th grade students to visit and attend an orientation. (Miriam Berryhill, Michelle, May 2027)
- Northside Elementary will promote and support responsible parenting. (Michelle Atherton, ongoing)
- Northside Elementary will consider recruiting alumni to create an alumni advisory commission. (Miriam Berryhill, ongoing)
- Northside Elementary will enable and support the formation of a parent teacher organization and utilize the leaders in appropriate decisions. (Lisa Ralph, August 2026)
- Northside Elementary will engage in activities that will use community resources to strengthen school programs. (Michelle Atherton, ongoing)
 - Local churches help donate items for our food and clothing pantry
 - Junior Auxiliary provides bill assistance, picture books, clothing and lice kits.
- Northside Elementary will ensure that the FACE plan is comprehensive and coordinated. (Michelle Atherton, ongoing)
- The FACE plan and the School Improvement Plan will be aligned. (Michelle Atherton, ongoing)

6: Annual Title I Meeting

(Describe/List when (provide the month/year or month/day/year) the school will hold the Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved. The Annual Title I meeting should not be used to ask for parent input, but provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised family and community engagement policy.)

- Northside Elementary will conduct an annual parent meeting in September. At this meeting, the building principal provides parents with a school compact that outlines the steps that parents, school staff, and students will take to ensure academic success as a shared responsibility. Also during this meeting, the building principal updates the parents on the “state of the school.” She will go over achievement data, school curriculum, and explanation of Title I and its benefits, and family and community engagement opportunities. Parents will be provided with an electronic link to a survey allowing them to request assistance in helping their student be successful. The link to the survey will also be posted on Northside Elementary’s Facebook page to keep all parents well informed. (Miriam Berryhill, September 2026)

7: School-Parent Compact

(Describe/List the process the schools will follow to jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact.)

- Northside Elementary acknowledges the importance of all parties in developing a School-Parent Compact. The compact emphasizes the responsibility of parents, staff, and students for student achievement. The compact consists of “I will” statements listing the responsibilities of parents, students, teachers, and the principal. After the initial development of the compact by Northside Elementary teachers, the leadership committee, which includes parents and community members, will give feedback and suggestions will be carefully considered. The School-Parent Compact will be introduced at the Title I meeting and will be sent home with students for signatures the next school day. (Miriam Berryhill, Michelle, September 2026)
- The School-Parent Compact for Northside Elementary will be a portion of developing a partnership to help students achieve state standards. (Miriam Berryhill, August 2026)
- Northside Elementary will establish meaningful communication with parents by making themselves available via phone, email, and through Parent Teacher Conferences a minimum of twice a year. Parents can also communicate with teachers through apps like Remind, Classroom DOJO, and HAC (Home Access Center) for updates on their child’s progress and information about class activities. These applications also give teachers access to inform parents of volunteer opportunities and other needed parent roles as well. Northside

Elementary also has a Parent Resource Center that parents can use to learn about these roles and opportunities. Progress reports are sent home at the end of each nine week period. (Miriam Berryhill, ongoing)

- Reasonable access to staff is provided via conferences, phone calls, Class DOJO app, emails, texts, and other forms of communication. Classroom observations could be available if arrangements are made through the principal and classroom teacher (Miriam Berryhill, ongoing)
- Northside Elementary will involve parents in a variety of roles including, but not limited to, volunteers in the workroom, mentors, reading buddies, and lunch buddies. (August 2026-May 2027)

8: Reservation of Funds

(If the district receives more than \$500,000 in Title I allocation, then it must reserve 1 percent for family and community engagement activities. A minimum of 90% of that 1% must go to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools. If the school is allocated a percentage of the 1 percent, describe/list how the school will share with parents the budget for family and community engagement activities and programs and how parents will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used.)

- Northside Elementary will conduct an annual parent meeting in September 2026. At the meeting, the building principal provides parents with a school compact that outlines the steps that parents, school staff, and students will take to ensure academic success as a shared responsibility. Also during this meeting, the principal updates the parents on the “state of the school.” She will go over achievement data, school curriculum, an explanation of Title I and its benefits, and family and community engagement opportunities. During this meeting, parents will complete the Title I Survey. Parents will be given the opportunity to suggest decisions regarding the allotted reserved funds for family and community engagement. (Miriam Berryhill, September 2026)

9: Checklist of Assurances

(Please read the following statements closely. By checking these boxes, the School understands the legal requirements and will meet them accordingly.)

☒	A.1:The School understands that annually by August 1, the public School’s Engagement Plan shall be developed, or reviewed and updated. <i>[ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.3]</i>
-------------------------------------	--

☒	A.2:The School understands that the following must be made available to families and the local community on the School or District website no later than August 1st: • The School Engagement Plan • A parent-friendly explanation of the School and District's Engagement Plan • The informational packet • Contact information for the parent facilitator designated by the School. <i>[A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.4]]</i>
☒	A.3:The School understands that a parent-friendly summary/explanation of the Engagement Plan should be included in the current student handbook. <i>[A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02]</i>
☒	A.4:The School understands its obligation for ensuring professional development requirements related to parent and family engagement are met and that records are maintained accordingly. (2 hours every 4 years with 2025 being a required year) <i>[A.C.A. § 6-15-1703(a); A.C.A. § 6-17-709; Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts July 2020 Standard 4-G.1 Professional Development (D/C)]</i>
☒	A.5:The School understands its obligation to obtain signatures for each parent acknowledging receipt of the District's Engagement Plan summary/explanation. <i>[A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a)(3)(B)]</i>
☒	A.6:The School Principal understands their obligation to designate and pay a licensed staff member to serve as Parent Facilitator: • to help organize meaningful training for staff and parents,

	- to promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere, and - to undertake efforts to ensure that engagement is recognized as an asset to the School. <i>[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(c)(1)]</i>
☒	A.7:The School understands its obligation to encourage school staff to use volunteer surveys to compile a volunteer resource book.. <i>[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(6)(B)(ii)]</i>
☒	A.8:The School understands its obligation to conduct no fewer than two parent-teacher conferences per school year. <i>[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(3)(B)(ii)]</i>
☒	A.9:The School understands its obligation to incorporate the Engagement Plan into the School Improvement Plan. <i>[ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.2]</i>
☒	A.10:The School understands its obligation to schedule regular parent involvement meetings at which parents are given a report on the state of the School and an overview of: - what students will be learning - how students will be assessed - The informational packet - what a parent should expect for his or her child's education - how a parent can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education. <i>[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(5)(B)(i)(a-d)]</i>
☐	A.11:Any School serving high school students understands its obligation to educate parents about their role in decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and preparation for postsecondary opportunities. <i>[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(7)(B)(ii)]</i>

☒	A.12:The School understands its obligation to welcome parents into the School, and more specifically, not have any school policies or procedures that would discourage a parent from visiting the School or from visiting a child's classrooms. <i>[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(6)(B)]</i>
☒	A.13:The School understands that all Title I, Part A funded engagement activities and strategies should remain consistent with all information set forth in this parent and family engagement plan. <i>[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(D)]</i>
☒	A.14:The School understands its obligation to submit to the State any comments from parents who deem the Title I Schoolwide Plan unsatisfactory. These comments can be sent to ade.engagementmatters@ade.arkansas.gov <i>[ESSA § 1116(b)(4)]</i>
☒	A.15:The School understands its obligation, if requested by parents, to provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. <i>[ESSA § 1116(c)(4)(C)]</i>