

# **L'Anse Area Schools Family Engagement Plan**

**Updated June 2021**

## **Challenging and Preparing Our Students**

L'Anse Area Schools believes that a partnership must exist between our parents and our school. We promote positive communication between the school and our students' homes. The school provides a variety of opportunities for parents to be involved in activities supporting our school and the students' success. We believe teachers have a responsibility to provide the needed framework for parents to nurture their child's formal instruction at home. It is our goal to provide an atmosphere where parents are able to express their views, actively assist in problem solving, and understand their roles as advocates. Thank you for staying involved in your child's education. We look forward to a successful year. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

## **Statement of Purpose**

The faculty of our school is committed to providing a quality education for all students and to recognize the essential role of parents and the value of their input. Parent representatives were included in the development of this plan. They will also be included in the evaluation meetings. In order to involve parents in the design of the plan a survey is given annually and results are summarized by the school improvement team. An effort is made to have the survey available at a few evening events such as basketball games and it will be emailed to parents using the Skyalert email system also. Survey questions provide feedback in the following areas:

1. What do you think are the strengths of the school?
2. Are you satisfied with the level of communication you had with the school?
3. Do you feel your child's academic progress was communicated to you clearly throughout the year?
4. If your child had trouble learning during this last year, do you feel they received the help they needed?

Results from the survey are shared annually with the District Improvement Team and the team will look for ways to increase parental involvement in our school.

## **Goals and Strategies to increase parent involvement:**

### **Goal 1: School staff will use a variety of communication strategies to provide additional information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instruction.**

The school will distribute a monthly newsletter to parents which includes information from various grade levels, departments and/or organizations. These will be posted on school website, Facebook and emailed home also.

The school website and Facebook Page provide pertinent school information. Each teacher will communicate electronically with parents using classroom websites, Facebook pages, Remind 101, parent email groups or other formats on a regular basis.

Teachers will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate about their child's progress. It is recommended that the ratio of positive contacts be 4 to 1.

The school will provide parents progress reports every four and a half weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress. Teachers will hold parent conferences each fall and spring. Sessions will be held in both afternoon and evening to make it convenient for parents. Teachers will schedule to meet on a different day if needed due to a conflict.

Each teacher or grade level group will send home newsletters to communicate upcoming classroom and school events, learning objectives and how parents can support their child's academic skills. These will be on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis.

Parents, through the school web-site, have access to their student's grades, attendance, discipline and food service account. Due to parent requests, the Skyward App will be made available to parents and the email notification system will be active for parents to sign up for notifications for missing work or low grades.

*Parent input is sought throughout the year in a variety of ways involving two way communication including biannual KBIC Tribal Education Committee (RAP) meetings, quarterly District Improvement Team meetings and annual Handbook Review Committee meetings. The Family Engagement Plan is on the agenda of the RAP meetings, PTO meetings and District Improvement Team meetings. Feedback from these discussions is considered for incorporation in the plan. The Family Engagement Plan is reviewed annually at each of these meetings. The Family Engagement Plan is sent out to the parent listserv at the beginning of each year and parents are encouraged to respond with any comments regarding their satisfaction with the plan. The plan is*

*automatically made available to the Local Education Agency because LAS is a one building district. The plan is also posted on the school website. Student Assistance Team meetings (SATs) are held for any students who are having difficulty. These meetings provide a huge amount of two way communication between teachers, counselors, administrators and parents. Parental input is considered in developing assistance plan strategies. These plans have led to positive results.*

*Parent Survey results are reviewed annually and shared with staff. The results of the surveys including comments from open ended questions are considered when developing and adjusting the school improvement goals and strategies. These meetings have a history of leading to positive change.*

Course content expectations are shared with parents through course syllabi and are available in the school offices.

*Correspondence that is sent home to parents such as newsletters are proofread and in a language and format that is easy for parents to understand. Many other resources sent home are from programs that have also made an effort to use language that is easy for parents to understand.*

**Goal 2: The school will hold activities throughout the year to increase parental involvement.**

The school will hold an open house prior to the start of school to inform parents of programs, policies, and procedures. The Parent-Teacher-Student Compact will be reviewed at the beginning of each year meeting *which is scheduled in early evening/late afternoon the week before school starts* and at fall parent-teacher conferences in addition to being sent home. *The 5:00 time of the meeting is most convenient for working parents and Wednesdays are the evening without athletic events planned so that is often when it happens.* The Compact is reviewed with parents at the Title 1 Family Engagement meeting and will be updated each school year.

Parents will be given a summary of the student's assessment scores and information on how to interpret them, including the expected proficiency levels. These will be reviewed at conferences and also mailed home. *Teachers share with parents online resources available to help improve low areas of math or reading such as Moby Max, ReadWorks, Accelerated Reader, Reading Eggs, Exact Path and Zearn. These resources are encouraged to be used at home. Information is shared with parents through classroom*

*and schoolwide newsletters. Exact Path, Moby Max and Zearn are adaptive to the student's individual needs.*

*Eureka math newsletters to parents prior to each unit help explain how parents can help at home with the concepts. Home Connections weekly newsletters with suggested reading strategies are sent home to elementary parents.*

Parents serve on a variety of committees such as the District Improvement Team (meets quarterly), Wellness Committee (meets quarterly), Title 1 Parent Committee/PTO and the annual Student Handbook meetings.

Parents are invited to participate in the following activities/programs: WatchDOGS, Pastries with Parents, Goodies with Grandparents, Family Nights, Academic Fairs, Daddy-Daughter Dances, Mother-Son Dances, Parenting Classes, etc. Some activities are in the afternoon, others are in the evening.

*The Guiding Good Choices parenting class is offered multiple times per year and part of the focus is support for student achievement and success in school.*

Teachers will inform parents of volunteer opportunities including listening to readers, practicing math facts, assisting with learning centers, chaperoning field trips and assisting with classroom parties.

The district will post on the school website and send home with beginning of year paperwork a list of volunteer opportunities with contact information.

Title VI and AT Risk paraprofessionals will be involved with family outreach and parent involvement activities at the school.

**Goal 3: Staff is trained to build effective parent engagement.**

Teachers had an August PD session on Family Engagement strategies in 2018. Due to parent input, teachers will also be trained in online communication methods such as Remind 101.

The staff will review the school-parent compact and the Family Engagement Plan prior to the beginning of the school year.

Staff and are involved with external groups for the purpose of parent engagement with the following: CTE advisory committees, Baraga County Memorial Hospital for Wellness Committee, Parent Teacher Organization, BHK Head Start for Best Start program and GE

after school program, Dial Help for Guiding Good Choices parenting class, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for RAP group meetings and Title VI parent advisory meetings,

Capturing Kids Hearts training is beginning in 2021 and reinforces family engagement strategies.

**Goal 4: The school will provide transitional support and activities from elementary school to junior high.**

The 5th grade teachers and elementary guidance counselor will work with the 6th grade teachers to help provide a smooth transition from one school to the next by raising parent awareness of procedures and related activities.

The 6th grade parents will receive information on middle school routines, attendance policy and other procedures. A one page handout summary will be available at the Open House.

Goal for 21-22: The 5th grade students will shadow the 6th grade students one day during the spring.

Beginning with the Fall of 2019, a separate 6th grade open house/orientation has been planned, except during 2020 due to Covid restrictions.

The Parent-Teacher Organization meets monthly during the school year and parent input from this group is part of the Title 1 planning process.

**Goal 5: The school will provide transitional support and activities for students entering kindergarten.**

Our kindergarten program is a Best Start program affiliated with Head Start. This program is designed to assist Kindergarten students with the transition from Head Start to Kindergarten. Parents are provided with materials and training to help parents work with their children. The Best Start program will have a monthly parent meeting or home visit to answer questions parents might have and to let parents know how they can help their children with concepts to enrich and reinforce what is being done in school. Goal for 21-22 - To have BHK Best Start share with LAS staff some of the parent support materials they use with families so they can be provided to all kindergarten families. Parents can also contact their child's teacher for extra materials and to get assistance if needed. The school counselor can be contacted if the parent needs help with discipline or parenting issues.

Each spring kindergarten teachers visit all of the local preschool programs and each group of students comes to our school for a visit. Our elementary school has one Head Start Classroom within the school.

## **Evaluation**

This plan will be evaluated annually based on:

1. Numbers of parents participating in WatchDOGS
2. Numbers of parents attending Family Nights, conferences, Academic Fairs, etc.
3. Numbers of parents attending Handbook meetings, DIT meetings, Title 1 meetings, Wellness Committee meetings, etc
4. Numbers of parents involved with PTO events.
5. Parent survey results in the areas of communication and being informed on student progress.