

Arkansas Virtual Academy 6-8
4702 West Commercial, Suite B3
North Little Rock AR 72116
501-664-4225

2015-2016 School Parent Involvement Policy

District

Arkansas Virtual Academy

School Improvement Status

NA

Title I Status

Title I School-wide

Grade Levels

6-8

Parent Involvement Coordinator

Gina Moore

Percent of free and reduced lunch

65%

Parent Involvement Committee Members

Scott Sides
Head of School

Jennifer Shelby
Support Staff/Parent

Hollie Gumm
Principal

Aquella Ellis
Parent

Gina Moore
Parent Involvement Coordinator

Martin Fimple
Parent

Beth Moore
Parent Facilitator/Teacher

Jessica Campbell
Parent

Kim Cox
Support Staff

Chrissy Kelley
Parent

Michelle Ham
Support Staff

Shannon Stewart
Parent

1. List various communication strategies used in your school to provide additional information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instruction.

Distributing a monthly school newsletter to families providing information about school outings, student achievement awards, health and wellness information, Title I information, additional learning opportunities for students and other general school information. Study skill strategies, learning inventories, and test-taking tips are

just some of the information distributed. A newsletter will be distributed via kmail. For more information about the school newsletter, please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

Providing various forms of electronic means of communication including messages posted on the online school (OLS), school websites (<http://portaportal.com>, <http://www.k12.com/arva/>, <http://arva.k12start.com>), school Facebook page: Arkansas Virtual Academy at K12, and kmail to allow parents many avenues to access school information. For more information, please contact your child's teacher. Providing a School Calendar of academic and social events. This information is included in the Student/Parent Handbook and posted on the Strong Start site: <http://www.arva.k12start.com>. For more information please contact Cheli Stafford, cstafford@arva.org or Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

Distributing the Student Handbook, which includes the school's process for resolving parental concerns, the recommended role of the parent, student, teacher and school, ARVA's system to allow parents, teachers, and the school to communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner, among other information. ARVA will collect signature pages from parents and students from the ARVA Student/Parent Handbook at the beginning of the year via by way of digital signature stating families have accepted the policies and procedures outlined and will comply. For more information on the School Handbook, please contact Cheli Stafford, cstafford@arva.org.

Teachers will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate about their child's progress. For more information, please contact your child's teacher.

Providing to parents reports/report cards every nine weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress. For more information, please contact your child's teacher.

Providing to parents an explanation of the statewide assessment system, standards, and other accountability measures. For more information, please contact your child's teacher.

Holding weekly parent orientation sessions online, accessible to parents across the state, for newly enrolling families where information about school policies, curriculum, and other information will be provided. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

Providing contact information to parents for preschool programs such as Head Start, HIPPIY, and Parents as Teachers through links on school websites and the school newsletter. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

Ensuring that information to parents is in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand. Similarly, ARVA will take the necessary steps to ensure that communications with parents with disabilities are as effective as communications with other parent, including furnishing of appropriate auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford a parent with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, Title I programs, services, and activities, where applicable, including parental involvement provisions. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

2. List the proposed parent meeting, conferences and activities regularly throughout this year and the dates providing flexible meeting times that you have planned to increase parental involvement and build staff and parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts. (Must include the 2 state mandated parent/teacher conferences each year.)

Parent-teacher conferences will take place on a regular basis as indicated by parent and student needs. Conferences review student progress, academic areas of need, and support for the parents. For more information, please contact your child's teacher.

Online parent involvement meetings/workshops will be held throughout the year by ARVA teachers and/or staff, K¹², and other experts in the field of education for parents to attend. Session topics are pulled from the Parent Needs Assessment and may include: Title I, developmentally-appropriate learning activities, volunteer training, strategies for schooling effectively at home, state testing, math support, and others as determined by a needs

assessment. In alignment with the rules governing parental involvement ARVA will also schedule 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, what a parent should expect from his or her child's education, and how a parent can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

Parents will be provided instruction on how to incorporate developmentally-appropriate learning activities in the home environment such as the use of and access to Department website tools for parents, assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation, and other strategies, curricula, or activities to help a parent assist in his or her child's learning to enhance their education. For more information on academic meetings, please contact your child's teacher.

Meetings will be held at various times during the day or evening and/or recordings of online meetings will be provided to better accommodate parents. Where appropriate, access to online surveys will provide parents an opportunity to share feedback without having to attend a live session. For more information, please contact your child's teacher.

Outside speakers, often through K-12, will provide parents with more information concerning ways to make their child's academic life more successful. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

The school will encourage parents in a variety of roles and activities to increase their engagement and support for student learning such as school activities and educational outings where parents can play a key role in the development, hosting, and assistance at such events. ARVA staff will attend and participate in organized school outings throughout the year where students and parents are in attendance. These optional enrichment opportunities for students and parents are educational in nature and driven by the curriculum to provide enrichment to what students are learning. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

Mobilize resources provided by K¹² intended to develop a national community for online learning such as the K¹² Art Competition, spelling bee, science fair, Winterland of Gingerbread events, and online clubs. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

3. How will your school provide information to parents about volunteer opportunities (must include state mandated parent training)?

The school will provide a list of volunteer opportunities and solicit ideas for other types of volunteer efforts within the Volunteer Survey. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

A volunteer resource guide, listing the interests and availability of parent volunteers, will be developed and shared with all ARVA teachers and administration. Volunteer opportunities that allow parents to participate in shared decision-making, such as ACSIP committees, Parental Advisory Committee, and Booster Program (parent organization) will be included in the resource book. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

Provide training at least annually for volunteers who assist in an instructional program for parents. For more information please contact Hollie Gumm, hgumm@arva.org.

Ensure that all levels of staff, from the teachers to the general office personnel, understand how to reach out to and communicate with parents in order to build ties between parents and the school. ARVA teachers will be provided no fewer than 2 hours of professional development in the area of parental involvement to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies, and ARVA administration will receive no fewer than 3 hours of professional development in the area of parental involvement to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies, the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations, and creating a climate conducive to parental participation. For more information, contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

Provide instruction to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation: role play and demonstration by trained volunteer, the use of and access to the Department of Education website tools for parents, assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation

and other strategies or curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at-home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education. For more information, contact Hollie Gumm, hgumm@arva.org.

4. How will your school work with parents to create a School-Parent-Compact?

School staff, parents, and students will develop a school-parent-student compact. This compact will outline how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. Signatures will be collected via an online survey. For more information, contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

5. How will your school provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of the school wide school improvement plan, and the Annual Title I Meeting to engage them in the decision-making processes regarding the school's Title I, Part A Program?

The Arkansas Virtual Academy Middle School has a Parental Involvement Plan developed jointly with parents and revised each year based on an annual needs survey and to reflect programs and practices that enhance parental involvement and address the specific parent involvement needs of the students and their families as well as the specific academic improvement needs of the school. Parents have the opportunity to give input and suggestions for revision of the school plan through surveys and participation in the Parental Advisory Committee. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

A Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) will serve as a forum for parent suggestions for ARVA improvement. The PAC reviews and evaluates the parental involvement plans every year, meets to discuss ways to implement various aspects of the parental involvement plans including parent involvement programs, activities, and procedures and collaborates on other issues that pertain to our school. The PAC will also participate in the development of school-wide programs outside of the regular curriculum through analysis of parent involvement surveys. Information from the surveys will be used to evaluate parental access to school information and will inform what enhancements may be needed to support our students and parents. PAC will ensure that the school's parental involvement plans involve parents of students at all grade levels in a variety of roles, including involvement in the education of their children, volunteer activities, learning activities that support classroom instruction, participation in school decisions, and collaboration with the community. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

To take advantage of community resources, the school shall consider recruiting alumni from the school to create an alumni advisory commission to provide advice and guidance for school improvement. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

The school shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association or organization, such as our Parent Booster Program, which will foster parental and community involvement within the school. The ARVA Booster Program (parent organization) will provide a forum for mutual support and ideas geared to make the ARVA experience positive and academically rewarding for all families. This parent based volunteer group is intended to foster local engagement through activities that promote leadership, school pride and outreach, and meaningful connections for families through its efforts. Regular ARVA Booster Program meetings will be conducted online via Blackboard Collaborate to ensure that all parents of students enrolled are provided the opportunity to participate in school activities. Meetings are recorded for families unable to attend. For more information about the ARVA Parent Booster Program, please contact Beth Moore, bmoore@arva.org.

Convene an annual Title I meeting in the fall that will include the rights of parents of students receiving Title I services (including their right to be involved in the development of the parental involvement plan/policy), a description or explanation of the school's curriculum, information on forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and information on the proficiency level students are expected to meet. Responsible person: Gina Moore, Parental Involvement Coordinator, gmoore@arva.org.

6. How will your school provide resources for parents?

ARVA will distribute an Informational Packet in the fall that includes a copy of the school's parental involvement plan; the recommended role of the parent, teacher, student, and school; ways for the parent to become involved in the school and his or her child's education; a volunteer survey to share interests; activities planned throughout the school year; and a system to allow the parents and the school to communicate in a regular, two-way, meaningful manner. The packet will also contain school contact person information, including contact information for the Parent Facilitator and the Parental Involvement Coordinator. This Informational Packet will also be posted to the Strong Start site for future reference: <http://www.arva.k12start.com>. For more information, please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

ARVA will distribute a parent-friendly explanation of the parental involvement plans to all parents via KMail at the beginning of the year and will include a link to the document on the school's Strong Start website for parents. For more information, please contact Gina Moore: gmoore@arva.org.

To promote and support responsible parenting, the school shall, as funds are available: build the parent lending library by purchasing parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting, as requested by parents, advertise the current selection, and give parents the opportunity to borrow the materials for review. For more information, please contact Gina Moore: gmoore@arva.org.

ARVA will investigate and, where feasible, utilize community resources in the instructional program of the school to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning such as collaboration with the K¹² national community for parent workshops, student clubs, WOG, art contest, etc.; the Arkansas State Library, Back-to-School Night/Book Fair at Barnes & Noble, venues across the state for educational outings, church or community buildings for testing, and so forth. For more information, please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

ARVA staff and Board have an approved policy for resolving parental concerns, and it is clearly outlined in the ARVA Student/Parent Handbook which is distributed to all families annually and posted to the Strong Start website: <http://www.arva.k12start.com>. For more information contact Hollie Gumm, hgumm@arva.org.

ARVA has designated a certified staff member who serves as a parent facilitator to promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere to foster parental involvement in the school, and undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school. The parent involvement coordinator and parent facilitator will work together to ensure parental involvement. For more information, contact Beth Moore, bmoore@arva.org, ARVA's parent facilitator.

7. How will your school engage parents in the evaluation of your parental involvement efforts?

The school will engage parents and staff in the annual evaluation of the school's parental involvement efforts. Using the evaluation results, the Parental Advisory Committee will determine the effectiveness of the parental involvement plan and make changes, if warranted. While collecting evidence about satisfaction with the program the school's efforts to increase parental involvement will be a part of the evaluation. The evaluation will include a survey to collect specific information on the (1) growth in number of parents participating in workshops and meetings; (2) specific needs of parents; (3) effectiveness of specific strategies; and (4) engagement of parents in activities to support student academic growth. For more information please contact Gina Moore, gmoore@arva.org.

8. How will your school use the parent interest surveys to select, plan and implement parental involvement activities that will be offered throughout the year?

The school will ask parents to fill out a parent interest survey yearly to get information from parents concerning the activities they feel will be most beneficial in the efforts to support their child academically. For more information, please contact Gina Moore: gmoore@arva.org.

The school will use the results of the parent interest survey to plan the parental involvement activities for the year. For more information, please contact Gina Moore: gmoore@arva.org.

The school will evaluate the activities offered yearly. For more information, please contact Gina Moore: gmoore@arva.org.

**9. When will your school plan the Annual Title I Meeting that must be conducted separately?
Annual Title I meeting, conducted online and separate from other meetings and activities:**

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, 1pm

Final approval by the Parental Advisory Committee on Sept. 28, 2015.