

Sloan-Hendrix Middle School Parent Involvement Plan 2011/2012 School Year

Mr. Mitch Walton, Superintendent
Mr. Rick Tate, Elementary/Middle School Principal
Mrs. Becky Foreman, Parent Center Facilitator
Mrs. Beth Gosha, Parent Center Coordinator

Sloan-Hendrix Middle School Parent Involvement Plan

The Sloan-Hendrix Middle School understands and appreciates the valuable role that parents play in their child's education. Three decades of research strongly suggests that parent involvement in their children's education is vital to academic success. It is important that schools and parents work together as partners for the academic achievement of all students.

The faculty and staff of Sloan-Hendrix Middle School are committed to providing the skills necessary for students to become self-assured, successful, and life-long learners. Our parent involvement plan will strengthen the school's mission.

In keeping in compliance with the legal requirements of Arkansas Act 603 of 2003 (6-15-2003; Parent Involvement Plan) and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (PL 107-110), the following parent involvement plan represents joint development with parents, students, and school faculty and staff.

1. Communication between home and school should be regular, two-way, and meaningful.

The Sloan-Hendrix Middle School will have two parent-teacher conferences per school year. The first conference will be held in October and the second conference will be held in March.

- ✓ Teachers recognizing positive achievements or actions of their children will contact parents throughout the year.
- ✓ Calendars of school events and activities will be sent home monthly.

- ✓ Progress reports will be sent home every 4-1/2 weeks.
- ✓ Report cards will be sent home four times a year. Two of these times will be coordinated with the parent-teacher conferences in October and March.
- ✓ Material such as Home/School Connection, Benchmark preparation, Test Taking Skills, and reading books will be sent to the parents of all 5-7 students.
- ✓ Parents may also keep up with the progress of their children weekly by using the web based computer access program "Pinnacle Gradebook Viewer".

2. Sloan-Hendrix Middle School will continue to make annual reports to the public. This meeting will be held in September at the Bill McCurley Gymnasium.

3. Sloan-Hendrix Middle School will have parent involvement night at least once each nine weeks.

Sloan-Hendrix Middle School will be using a variety of methods to involve 5-7 parents in different modules throughout the school year. These modules will be based on scientific research. Activities are based on parent assistance with homework, Family Math Night, conducting parent teacher conferences, increased time on task, How to Help Your Child Become a Better Reader, and more. During these parent nights, the Parent Facilitator and Coordinator will assist parents with hands-on activities, sharing ideas and experiences with other parents. This will help parents realize the important and integral role they play in their child's educational successes. They will then be given activities to promote joint learning at home with their children.

4. Professional Development

The Sloan-Hendrix School District will design professional development opportunities for teachers to include no less than 2 hours of professional development which are designed to enhance teacher understanding of effective parent/guardian involvement strategies. The two hours may be included in the required sixty hours of professional development. (See Act 603, Page 5, Line 19).

The Sloan-Hendrix School District will design a minimum of 3 hours of professional development opportunities for administrators. This is in addition to the sixty hours of professional development already required. The three hours of professional development are designed to enhance the understanding of (See Act 603, 5, Line 25):

5. Sloan-Hendrix Middle School will continue to have an active "Parents, Teachers, and Educators Program" (PTE).

6. A Benchmark awareness night will be held for parents of the 5th-7th grade students.

We will conduct a Benchmark Skills Awareness night for each grade currently required to take the Benchmark Exam. Parents will be shown examples of released items in reading, writing, and math. They will then have the opportunity to work through some of these items with their children during the meeting. At the end of each night, parents will be given a packet of additional released items to take home. They will be encouraged to work with their children periodically during the year on these items. Students will experience less test anxiety if they are familiar with the types of questions, layout of the assessments, writer's checklist, etc.

7. Parents will be given an opportunity to have results the of his or her child's Benchmark tests interpreted for them in-group and/or individual meetings with the school counselors.

Parents will be encouraged to call or come to school in order to be given guidance in interpreting the reports that are sent home. Counselors will be available to provide this information to parents. This information will strengthen the knowledge parents will have as to assessments their children and the school district are held accountable for.

8. Parents will be encouraged to volunteer at the school, and both their support and assistance are sought. Parent volunteers will be honored each year by a potluck lunch that will be provided by the teachers and staff of Sloan-Hendrix Middle School.

The Sloan-Hendrix Middle School will keep a volunteer resource book listing the interests and availability of volunteers. This information will be published for school staff and will include parent surveys regarding their interests so the volunteer work will be meaningful. The resource book will include times and frequency of volunteer availability. The resource book will include options for parents who are available to help at home. This book will be used to match school needs with volunteer interests. Pamphlets will be printed attesting the district's commitment to parental involvement and will be distributed to parents.

Additionally, the Sloan-Hendrix Middle School will continue to recruit parent volunteers to attend off-campus field trips and/or other events with their children's classes.

9. Parenting skills will be promoted and supported.

If our school is made aware of a special talent or ability of one of our parents or community members, that person will be encouraged to take an active part with our students. Expertise in particular areas would be a great asset to our school system.

In addition, the district will make books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting available to parents. These materials will be available in our parent center. Parents will be sent notes informing them that these materials are available to them for check out and inviting them to come to school to review these materials.

10. Parents and alumni will be used as resources from the community.

The district will contact alumni from the school to create an alumni advisory commission. This commission will provide advice and guidance for school improvements.

Parents and alumni will be asked to come and read to classes, speak to career classes, share cultural experiences, etc. when appropriate to the class or activity.

11. Parents will serve on advisory committees of the school including the following:

- School Improvement Committee (ACSIP)
- School Handbook Committee
- Parental Involvement Plan Committee
- Federal Programs Committee
- School Health and Wellness Committee

12. The Sloan-Hendrix Middle School will continue the GUARD Program (Grandparents United Against Reading Deficiencies).

Grandparents and retired teachers will be recruited to read weekly with students who are experiencing reading difficulty. These volunteers will be assisted by the Literacy Coach, Becky Foreman.

13. Welcoming Parents/Guardians in the School

(See Act 603, Page 3, Line 27)

To assist in welcoming parents/guardians in the school and to assist in seeking parents/guardians support and assistance, the Sloan-Hendrix Middle School will ensure that:

- 1) The District-nor any of its schools-will implement any policy or procedure that will discourage a parent/guardian from visiting the school, specifically including:
 - a) Policies requiring parents/guardians to “pick-up” their children outside the school building each day.

b) Policies prohibiting the parents/guardians from visiting their children's classrooms during school events.

14. Parents will receive the school's handbook and policies each year.

Information included in the policy handbook includes the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions. Also included is a list of phone numbers, teachers and the grades/subjects they teach, activities during the school year, etc. Parents may also visit the Sloan-Hendrix School District Web site (<http://shsd.k12.ar.us/>) and view all school related information.

15. Evaluation of the parent involvement plan will be conducted through surveys, sign-in sheets, and data that compares parent involvement before and after implementation.

Records will be kept and parents will sign in each time we have a parent night and other functions involving parents and our children. In addition, they will sign in at parent-teacher conferences, when they volunteer, attend Benchmark Readiness nights, attend planning meetings, etc.

16. The Sloan-Hendrix Middle School shall designate one certified employee and one classified employee to serve as Parent Facilitators and Parent Coordinator. The Parent Coordinator will report to the facilitators and assist them in organizing meaningful training and provide helpful information for staff and parents.

The principals designate one certified staff member – to be compensated by school funds – as a parent/guardian facilitator for the purpose of (See Act 603, Page 15, Line10): a) Organizing meaningful training for staff and parents/guardians for the purpose of promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parents/guardians involved in the school (See Act 603, Page 5, Line 19).

Mrs. Becky Foreman will serve as the Parent Facilitator for the district. It will be the responsibility of the Parent Facilitator to organize staff development that is meaningful for faculty and staff and training for parents that meets their needs. In addition, it will be the responsibility of our Parent Facilitator to ensure that parental participation in the Sloan-Hendrix School District is publicly recognized.

The Parent Coordinator, Mrs. Beth Gosha, will assist the Facilitators in promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere for parents in our school. The Parent Coordinator will encourage all parents to be involved in the education of our children.

The Sloan-Hendrix School District faculty and staff believe that a child's education is a responsibility that should be shared by the school and family during the entire Pre-K through 12th grade academic experience.

17. Federal Requirements

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a School-Parent Compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children and will provide information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state department of education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95% of the 1% reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

***Parental involvement** means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school*

activities, including ensuring that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA. [Section 9101(32)ESEA]

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the existence and purpose of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the state.

18. Adoption

This district-wide parental involvement policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the adoption and approval of the district's Parental Involvement Committee.

This policy was adopted by the Sloan-Hendrix School District Board of Directors on September 28, 2011 and will be in effect for the period of the 2011-2012 school year and through September 30, 2012. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before December 1, 2011.

Mitch Walton, Superintendent of Schools