

**West Lowndes High School**  
**Parent and Family Engagement Policy**  
**2024 - 2025**

**Statement of Purpose**

- ❖ West Lowndes High School teachers and staff are committed to providing a quality educational program that will challenge all students to attain their greatest potential.
- ❖ We believe that when the school, parents, and families work together, children will succeed in school and throughout life.
- ❖ Parents and families play an extremely important role as children's first teachers and their support for their children and for the school is critical to the success of the children and the school.
- ❖ West Lowndes High School believes in the importance of good communication between the home and the school in building a successful learning environment for all students. It is our desire to provide multiple opportunities for parents, families, students and school staff to establish strong, mean and lasting connection.

**Developing the Policy**

West Lowndes High School has developed, and will distribute to parents, the West Lowndes High School Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Parents have been notified about the parental and family engagement policy in an understandable and uniform format and the policy has been distributed to parents in a language that parents can understand. West Lowndes High School and parents will annually update the West Lowndes Parent and Family Engagement Policy to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is distributed to parents through the following methods:

- Schoology Updates
- Annual Title 1 & Open House Meetings
- School websites
- Other special school events, such as parent education meetings

**Annual Title I Parent Meeting**

West Lowndes High School will hold an annual Title I meeting at the beginning of the year in order to inform parents about the Title I Program, Parent and Family Engagement Policy, school curriculum and assessments, federal guidelines, and parents' right-to-know.

West Lowndes High School will hold a flexible number of meetings at varying times and places to accommodate parents' schedules.

West Lowndes High School will involve parents in the planning, reviewing, and the implementing of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the joint development of the Title I School-Wide Plan. Activities for parent programs are suggested by the parents, but they

are determined by a collaboration of the parents and school officials.

West Lowndes High School will provide this information to parents through the following methods:

- Schoology Updates
- School Website
- Telephone calls / Parent Square
- Emails
- PTO Meetings

### **Building Capacity**

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among West Lowndes High School, parents, and the community, the school does the following:

- Provide training opportunities for parents, faculty, and staff for improved student achievement.
- Professional development for faculty and staff
- Parent Coordinators at each school to serve as a liaison between the school and the parents
- Provide parents with opportunities that explain state academic and achievement standards, state and local assessments, and student progress
- Parent/Teacher conferences
- Annual Title I meetings
- Spring Planning Meetings
- Provide opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children
- Implement the following key strategies to increase meaningful parental involvement to help improve student learning.
- Open house meetings where parents are invited to come to the school to meet with teachers and administrators concerning their child's progress
- Scheduled parent meetings throughout the year to help maintain parent relationships with teachers and administrators
- Encourage parental involvement through volunteer opportunities with PTO, Parent Advisory committees, Booster clubs and other ways to show the parents that they are welcomed and needed at the school
- Provide regular events that showcase student learning and talent and invite parents to participate
- Encourage parent access to their child's attendance and grades online by using the Schoology Program via the district's website
- West Lowndes High will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A in the Spring Planning Meetings to provide input on decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent.

## **Coordination of Programs**

The designation of a parent coordinator on the West Lowndes High School campus is a way to help coordinate parents and parental and family engagement programs. The parent coordinator serves as a liaison between the school and the parent. The parent coordinator helps to organize regular parent meetings, events, and other programs where parents are invited to come to the school and meet with teachers and administrators concerning their child's progress in the school. These meetings are set aside as a time to build and help maintain parent relationships with the school and the teachers. These meetings are geared to help encourage parents continue the learning process at home with their child and/or children. These meetings will address academic topics and college and career readiness topics and resources as well. The parent coordinators also discuss other issues such as homework help methods, time management strategies and organizational skills. Parent Coordinators meet with the district liaison at least four (4) times a year to help maintain the parent and family involvement programs at each school.

## **Parents' Right to Know**

The Parents' Right-to-Know letter is included in the student registration packet and given to all parents of incoming students.

West Lowndes High School provides parents information about their right to know the qualifications of their child's teacher. This notice is sent to parents each year along with information regarding any teacher that does not meet the highly qualified criteria required by Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA). When a student is being taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified, a notification letter is sent home to the parents of those students. When a substitute teacher has been in a classroom for more than four consecutive weeks and is not highly qualified, a notification letter is sent home to the parents of those students.

## **Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement**

To ensure effective Parental and Family Engagement and to support a healthy partnership among the school, parents, and the community, West Lowndes High School will conduct the following activities:

- Send informative letters home to parents
- Hold helpful meetings to discuss student progress and strategies for improvement
- Aid parents of children served by the Title I school program in understanding topics such as:
  - The state and district's academic achievement standards
  - The state and district's academic assessments including alternate assessments
  - Title I requirements
  - Current curriculum in use /Monitor their child's progress
  - How to work with the school and teachers to ensure student success

## **School-Parent Compacts**

West Lowndes High School has jointly developed with and distributed to parents, a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, teachers, principals, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It also describes how the school and parents will develop a partnership for student success. The school-parent compact addresses the following items as well as any items added by parents and students:

- The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction
- The parent's responsibility to support their children learning
- The partnership needed for children to achieve the state's high academic standards

The appropriate staff members of West Lowndes High and parents will review the compact yearly and revise as needed.

## **Evaluation**

West Lowndes High School works with the parents and members of the community to evaluate the effectiveness of the parental and family engagement program. Needs assessment surveys, parent feedback from meetings, and other resources are used to determine the needs of the school and revise the parental involvement policy and program to meet the changing needs of the parents and students. All revisions are voted on by the parents and are communicated to the parents in a timely manner. The parental involvement policy is revised on a yearly basis and sent to the school board for approval. Also, if the School-Wide Assistance Plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school will submit any parent comments on the plan when the school submits the plan to the district.

## **Accessibility**

*West Lowndes High School, to the extent practical, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. All information and school reports will be presented in a format, to the extent practical, in a language so that parents can understand.*

*Policy Revised: August 17, 2023*