

**Western Boone County Community School Corporation recognizes and values the role parents and families play in the overall well-being of our students. Students' academic success and emotional well-being are best achieved when parents are engaged in partnership with their child's teacher and school.**

**Western Boone Schools will encourage family involvement through activities that inform parents about student achievement and school performance, involve parents in the process of school improvement, build capacity for parent involvement, and evaluate the efficacy of parent involvement programs.**

**A. Involve parents in the joint development of the plan and the process of school review and improvement**

Stakeholder consultation occurs through a variety of committees and focus groups who review student assessment and survey data to identify areas of strength and target areas for improvement that become the foundation of our School Improvement Plans, School Reading Plans, and High Ability Program, and annual district goal setting. In turn, these plans, representing the collective input of teachers, administrators, interventionists, counselors, parents, and students, form the basis for the academic and social/emotional goals, encourage parental involvement, and prioritize programming initiatives addressed in our unified plan.

At the school and district levels, parents provide input in the development and planning of:

- School Improvement Plans
- High Ability Programming
- District Strategic Planning
- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Family Information Nights and Activities

**B. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance**

Western Boone CCSC supports the planning and implementation of parent involvement activities by offering input in planning, funding, and by attending activities that promote family engagement and encourage parent participation in children's learning. District support is also provided by scheduling time and meals for educators on evenings when parents are invited in to meet for parent/teacher conferences. The district provides local funds and solicits contributions from local businesses and outside organizations to provide meals that make it easier for teachers and staff to offer conferences at times that are convenient for families.

Following family engagement nights, parent input is collected through parent surveys to plan and promote parent participation for future family nights. Parent involvement activities are scheduled at times that are convenient for families to attend and offer a variety of activities and sessions designed to engage parents and

help parents learn strategies to support their children's academic development. Past sessions have included topics such as math sessions designed to help parents experience and understand new approaches to math instruction, reading strategies to support literacy-development, understanding NWEA parent reports, literacy intervention programs, and science and technology make-it/take it activities. District representatives support family involvement by attending family activities, leading sessions, and being available to answer questions from parents.

Parent/teacher conferences take place each fall to strengthen the school-home connections. Teachers discuss topics to present a balanced picture of students' academic progress, including classroom progress, ILEARN scores, MAP Growth reports, programming designed to meet student's specific learning needs, as well as parent questions and concerns. Title I staff contact parents and are in attendance to meet with parents during parent/teacher conferences.

**C. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by:**

***Provide assistance to parents in understanding the State's academic content and student achievement standards, how to monitor a child's progress, and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.***

Western Boone encourages parents to stay up to date with student progress between midterms and quarterly progress reports by providing online access to students' course grades through the student information system and course observer access through Canvas.

Western Boone CCSC promotes parental understanding by offering districtwide, in-person parent-teacher conferences, constructing a district school calendar that offers evening meeting times that are conducive for parents and families. During parent-teacher conferences, teachers share assessment data designed to report students' understanding of state achievement standards and help parents understand how to monitor their child's progress and support their academic development at home.

Western Boone CCSC posts and maintains school websites, which include links to Indiana Academic Standards. In addition, the district provides timely posting of students' statewide test results, so parents may view students' individual score reports and reach out to teachers, principals, or district administrators with questions. Principals communicate to parents when scores are posted and invite parents to contact them with questions.

Western Boone CCSC provides schools with resources for professional language translation to facilitate communication with families for whom language may pose a barrier to meaningful school participation. Language translation services are available to support in-person, virtual, telephone, and written communication. In addition, the LEA provides school offices and teachers of English learners with digital translation devices to facilitate impromptu in-person and telephone communication.

***Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children, such as literacy training and using technology to foster parental involvement***

Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each new school year, parents are provided with instructions that enable them to view their child's current grades, current and historic statewide test scores, and sign up for notifications at any time through the district's Student Information System.

Parents are provided with instructions that enable them to sign up as an observer to their student's courses through Canvas courses and receive copies of communications shared by teachers through the learning management system.

***Coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start and other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parent engagement.***

District administrators communicate annually with Boone County Head Start program directors to review and revise the Coordination with Head Start Plan, as necessary, to ensure a smooth plan for children transitioning from Head Start to kindergarten.

District leaders engage in ongoing dialogue throughout the year with Mental Health America of Boone County to provide before- and after-school care options for families of elementary-age students and provide mental health services for students in the face of unexpected tragedy or crisis in the school community. Western Boone also serves as a liaison between families and schools and Mental Health America of Boone County in connecting with other community resources for students in need.

Western Boone CCSC seeks non-traditional funding sources and dedicates local funding to contract with Boone County Sheriff's Office to provide School Resource Officers in each of the district's three schools. School Resource Officers provide safety and security during school hours and serve as a community liaison between families and schools.

Western Boone CCSC contracts with Integrative Wellness (InWell) for suicide assessment, responding to reports from schools and conducting self-harm assessments for students identified as being at risk. InWell supports families by connecting families with resources and referrals for students identified as being a risk to themselves and/or others.

For students transitioning to a school setting after receiving therapy supports from outside agencies, such as ABA or First Steps, a representative from the LEA authorized to make staffing or financial authorizations outside of the authority of the school's public agency representative is available to attend to transition conferences.

Western Boone CCSC delegates district liaisons to represent the district at local Department of Child Services meetings and serve as an educational liaison for students in foster care to support families in need and foster connections with families working through unique and difficult circumstances.

***Educate educators with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.***

Professional development for staff promotes understanding and effective communication with parents and the impacts of neuroscience on behaviors and academic achievement to help teachers and administrators consider alternative perspectives to promote partnerships with parents.

***Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.***

Language preferences and support needs are determined by school administrators when students enroll at the schools. The district provides schools with resources for professional language translation to facilitate communication with families for whom language may pose a barrier to meaningful school participation. Language translation services are available to support in-person, virtual, telephone, and written communication. In addition, the district provides school offices and teachers of English learners with digital translation devices to facilitate impromptu in-person and telephone communication.

***Other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1116, as parents may request***

Western Boone County Community School Corporation will take suggestions for other reasonable supports for parental involvement activities as submitted by parents under advisement and consider the benefit to students, families, and school community at large.

**D. Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under this part, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background) and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.**

Western Boone CCSC evaluates the effectiveness of parent involvement initiatives and the Parent Involvement Policy through surveys distributed via newsletters, email, and at family activities to solicit parent feedback and revise the policy, as needed. Survey data is collected at and following annual family engagement nights as well as school-level meetings, such as School Improvement Committee meetings and PTO meetings.

**E. Involve parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I, A.**

Western Boone CCSC encourages families' active participation in activities hosted by Title I schools by creating school calendars to allow family involvement activities to take place at time that are conducive to families' schedules and by advertising upcoming events on school websites and social media platforms.