

# JR Smith Elementary

## Parental Involvement Policy

Parents are instrumental to the success of education at J.R. Smith Elementary. The school maintains a high level of parental involvement and will continue to foster these relationships. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in classrooms, fluency clinics, and in school wide programs. The PTA at J.R. Smith is a vital link to parental involvement and operates programs such as Meet the Masters, Reading Incentive Programs, APPLE Parties, and health programs.

The school community council is an important link with parents. Parent members of this council provide feedback to the school on parent concerns and issues. They assist in the development of our school improvement plans and in educating the public on the status of the school. They participate in funding decisions with regard to the school improvement plan.

Parents are notified of school activities in a variety of ways. All parents receive a school calendar at the beginning of the year or at registration. The school maintains a web site with weekly activities listed. Teachers notify parents of classroom schedules, and many send weekly or monthly newsletters. The PTA also sends a monthly newsletter including activities and areas of concern. Teachers are also beginning to use teacher web sites to provide parent information. The use of web sites is a district goal that we will continue to address at the school.

Academic progress of students is reported in several ways. Parents have web access to teacher grade books at all times. In addition, conferences are held three times per year. At these conferences scores on assessments such as Iowa Basic Skills, CRT's, and benchmarks are discussed and reviewed. Educational goals are reviewed and new goals are formed. Teachers, parents, and students sign an education plan with goals created in this session. (See attached Student Education Plan)

Parents were notified of the school's failing school status by letter in their native language. Through the school newsletter we continue to provide information on programs and progress in addressing this status.

Our needs assessment indicated that parents have an interest in academic training that will allow them to better assist their students. Parent trainings have been provided in literacy, early literacy and mathematics. We will continue to build upon and expand these trainings in order to meet parent expectation.

J.R. Smith Elementary School will convene an annual Title I Meeting, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I. This meeting will be part of our annual back to school night. Title I will be explained/defined. By being a school-wide assistance school, all children benefit from Title I services and staffing as needed.

J.R. Smith Elementary School will offer flexible meeting times for the convenience of parents of all students. For example, every other month we hold a parent meeting at 6:45 in the morning that all parents are invited to attend. We also hold many meetings and programs in the afternoon and evenings.

J.R. Smith Elementary School will involve parents in a timely way to develop an annually review the following documents:

- Title I School-wide Plan
- Title I School-parent Policy
- Title I School-parent Compact
- Other Title I documents as needed

This happens through the PTA and Community Council meetings.

J.R. Smith Elementary School will provide parents with an explanation of the school's research based curriculum and academic assessments in a variety of ways. Such as:

- Review at Parent Teacher Conferences
- An agenda item in PTA and Community Council Meetings
- Posted on web-site that hard copies are available upon request at the school

J.R. Smith Elementary School will provide regular trainings to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. Some examples are:

- APPLE (Active Parents Participating in Learning Experiences) Nights
- Dual Language Immersion trainings
- Newsletters
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Volunteer Trainings

J.R. Smith Elementary School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate coordinate parent involvement programs with the following:

- Head-start
- Special Education
- Migrant Program
- Homeless Program

J.R. Smith Elementary School will ensure that the information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of all children in a format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

J.R. Smith Elementary School will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.