School Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2024-2025

School Name: Garfield Scholars' Academy

Facilitator Name: Cheryl Harrison

Plan Review/Revision Date: December 2024

District Level Reviewer, Title: Cheryl Harrison, Director

District Level Approval Date:

Committee Members, Role:

Carol Malone, School Counselor
Whitney Neighbors, Parent Teacher Association Representative
Ethan Randolph, Specialist Representative
Summer Say, General Education Representative
Cody Cochran, Support Staff Representative
Jenny Setzer, Board Member Representative
Gary Blackburn, Community Representative
Marynee Pimental, Parent Representative

1: Jointly Developed

(Describe/List how parents will be involved in the development of the school parent and family engagement plan and how parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of parent and family engagement programs.)

Parents will be involved in the development, review, and improvement of the parent and family engagement plan and programs at Garfield Scholars' Academy. This will be accomplished through a series of scheduled meetings that take place throughout the year to accommodate schedules and communication preferences of all families and staff. Parents will also be encouraged to communicate questions and give suggestions or feedback through communication with the Director of

Schools. The following are intended as meeting times and places that meet the needs of a majority of our parents:

1. Twice-yearly meetings to view, revise, and update the Parent and Family Engagement plan in May of 2025, and in August of 2025 to present the plan to families.
2. Scheduled Parent/Teacher Conferences on September 16, and 17th 2024 and February 3rd and 4th, 2025. Each family will be provided with opportunities to meet with teachers to get updates on their students' progress as well as grade-level and schoolwide goals.
3. Monthly Parent Teacher Association meetings scheduled for the first Thursday of every month. This will be advertised on social media sites as well as weekly family newsletters in "Upcoming Dates".

2: Annual Title I Meeting

(Describe/List when (provide the month/year or month/day/year) the school will hold the Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved. The Annual Title I meeting should not be used to ask for parent input, but provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy.)

The annual Title 1 meeting will take place within 30 days (9/2025) of the first day of school. This meeting will provide parents with information regarding parents rights under Title 1 and requirements and GSA participations under Title 1.

3: Communication

(Describe/List how the parent and family engagement policy will be distributed to parents and how the school is going to communicate with parents including information about how the school will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.)

The Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be available to parents in a variety of formats: Posted to our website, Garfieldscholars.org by August 1st under state required information; sent home as a paper copy within the first 30 days of school in the weekly folder; available for viewing at the request of the Director of Schools/ Parent facilitator in paper or digital version in the preferred language of the parent or family member.

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This plan will include:

- ✓ Description of Parent and Family Engagement plan
- ✓ *Recommended roles
- ✓ *Ways for a family to get involved in a variety of roles
- ✓ *Survey regarding volunteer interests
- ✓ *Schedule of activities planned throughout the school year
- ✓ *Regular, two-way, and meaningful system for parents/teachers to communicate

4: School-Parent Compact

(Describe/List the process the schools will follow to jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact.)

Garfield Scholars' Academy will jointly develop a School-Parent Compact that will outline how we plan to share the responsibility as families, students, and the

entire school staff to improve academic achievement. We will encourage regular two-way, meaningful communication through:

- Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences- Scheduled on September 16, and 17th 2024 and February 3rd and 4th, 2025. Each family will be provided with opportunities to meet with teachers to get updates on their students' progress as well as grade-level and schoolwide progress and goals.
- Reasonable access to staff through published school phone numbers, email addresses and schoolwide communication through the School Status platform (app, social media)
- Opportunities to volunteer through PTA and discussions with the Director of Schools and direct communication with classroom teachers.
- Observation of classroom activities through volunteer efforts or scheduled visits with the Director of Schools and the classroom teacher.
- Weekly family newsletters sent out by the Director of Schools to inform of upcoming events as well as reminders about policies and procedures.
- Regular communication about state assessments through the parent and family portal on ATLASportal.org. This platform allows parents to view data as well as Individual Progress Reports in Reading and Math on their own students in real time.
- Regular communication about standards being addressed during instruction and opportunities for parents to see how those standards can be applied to real-life situations using a "refrigerator curriculum".
- The school will inform decisions about instruction through parent feedback during PTA meetings, surveys, and two-way communication with teachers and staff.

5: Reservation of Funds

(If the district receives more than $500,000 in Title I allocation, then it must reserve 1 percent for parent and family engagement activities. A minimum of 90% of that 1% must go to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools. If the school is allocated a percentage of the 1 percent, describe/list how the school will share with parents the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and how parents will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used.)

Not applicable at this time.

6: Coordination of Services

(Describe/List how the district and/or school will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional support and resources to families.)

Garfield Scholars' Academy will partner with the local community in a variety of ways to provide supports and resources to families:

- Local non-profits for volunteer efforts: Hobbits, Garfield First Baptist Church, God's Pantry, Samaritan Community Center (snack packs).
- Arisa Health for outside mental health resources.
- Local businesses: R&F Feed Store, Tank Industries, Kinty Jones Construction,
- Parent Teacher Association development and support
- Develop a parent resource center that will provide community resources in areas of outside medical and counseling services available in the area upon request.
- Form relationships with non-profits that inform parents and school staff of relevant topics of child safety. One example is the ***Morgan Nick Foundation*** series on internet safety. https://morgannickfoundation.com/

7: Building Capacity of Parents

(Describe/List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to support parents in helping their student's academic success.)

Garfield Scholars' Academy will rely on parents as partners in the development of students' academic, social/emotional, and behavioral success. This will be accomplished by:

- Regular reporting of curriculum and state academic accountability practices-Arkansas State Standards and the ATLAS (Arkansas Teaching Learning Assessment System) of which parents will have full access to their students' Individual Learning Plans.
- Use of Arkansas Department of Education resources such as "refrigerator curriculum" to provide parents with relevant activities they can participate in with students outside of school.
- Provide information on Title 1, Part A.
- Creation of an academic calendar that includes breaks, scheduled Parent/Teacher/Student Meetings (One in early fall and one in early spring) to report the academic achievement of students.
- Development of Family Night topics that are relevant to school and parenting in the current times: Internet Safety, etc.
- Promote and support responsible parenting by providing materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of internet use), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement.

8: Building Capacity of School Staff

(Describe/List activities such as workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, online resources, and Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings that will be used with school staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners. Describe/List methods of parents' assistance for building staff capacity. Describe/List actions the school will take to provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities.)

Garfield Scholars' Academy will train teachers, instructional support personnel, administrators and other staff with the assistance of parents:

- in state standards, accountability, and childhood development through no less than 60 hours of professional development per year.
- understanding that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning and providing additional resources for teachers to communicate goals in

literacy, classroom management, and ways that parents can be included in classroom activities.
- in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners (SchoolStatus app, social media, district website)
- to welcome parents into the school and seek parental support and assistance
- to provide information in a format, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand (weekly newsletters, social media posts, School Status app)
- to respond to parent requests for parent and family engagement activities (Parent Teacher Association)
- to recognize that a parent is a full partner by including in the school handbook the school's process for resolving parent concerns

9: Building Capacity - Discretionary

The school parent and family engagement policy/plan may include additional sections describing other discretionary activities that the school, in meaningful consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build capacity.
Garfield Scholars' Academy will work to ensure that discretionary activities are offered to parents in the form of:

- ☐ **Literacy Training:** Provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.
- ☐ **Expenses to Enable Participation:** Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- ☐ **Flexible Options:** Arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents unable to attend conferences at school to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education.
- ☐ **Model Approaches:** Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement.
- ☐ **Parent Advisory Council:** Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.
- ☐ **Community and Business Roles:** Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent and family engagement activities.