

Lowell Elementary 2026-27 Arkansas School Engagement Plan

1: Jointly Developed

Lowell Elementary recognizes the importance of involving parents in the education of our students. Our goal is to create a culture of care and academic excellence in which the school and parents work together. This is done through:

- The parent advisory committee
- Parents being included in the development of the school engagement plan
- Curriculum nights
- Parent Resource Night
- PTA meetings-Evening
- Parent/Teacher conferences-afternoon and evening
- Open house (meet and greet)-evening
- Evening music programs
- Parent surveys sent out regarding various school decisions

Adequate representation efforts have been made to ensure parents and families with children at Lowell have been included in the decision making process in the following ways:

- Seeking volunteers to join the parent advisory committee
- Parent surveys to identify areas of strength and weakness
- Timely information about programs or changes in policies is sent from the office in both English and Spanish.
- Opportunities for parents to make suggestions for improvement of school procedures are provided. (Phone numbers and email addresses are provided on the website.)

Guiding Questions

- **1.1:** *How does the School - in collaboration with parents - establish an engagement plan that reflects the specific academic improvement needs of the School, and that includes programs and practices that enhance engagement and address the specific engagement needs of students and their families?*
[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(a)]
- **1.2:** *What efforts have been made to ensure adequate representation of parents and families of participating children in the process (Title I families)?*
[ESSA § 1116(c)(3)]

[Text box for responses]

2: Communication

Informational packets are distributed annually to ensure parents are aware of school information, how they can get involved, and ways to communicate with the school. This includes:

- Distribution of the Lowell Family Engagement packet and engagement plan
- Every student, parent, teacher, and the principal sign the Lowell Compact outlining their role in the educational process
- Parents are offered various opportunities by the school and teachers to volunteer
- The school communicates with parents through:
 - Parent Square
 - Social Media
 - Tuesday Folder
- Teachers communicate with parents using Parent Square, social media, and email

Information for parents sent out by the school is distributed in various ways. As much as possible, this information is sent out in English and Spanish. Some of the forms of communication include:

- Paper copies sent home in Tuesday Folders
- Parent Square
- Social Media Post (Facebook and Instagram)

Flexible meetings are offered throughout the school year. The school offers flexible meetings including:

- Parent/teacher conferences (afternoon and evening)
- 504 and special education conferences are scheduled by what works best for parents during the school day
- Administrators are available to meet with parents when needed during the school day
- Meetings can take place in a variety of ways to ensure parents can attend (in-person, phone conference, video chat)

Guiding Questions

- **2.1:** *How does the School distribute an informational packet appropriate for the age and grade of each child annually, ensuring to include:*
 - *description of the engagement program*
 - *recommended roles for parents, students, teacher, and the School*
 - *ways for a family to get involved*
 - *survey regarding volunteer interests*
 - *schedule of activities planned throughout the school year*
 - *regular, two-way, and meaningful system for parents/teachers to communicate*
[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(3)(B)(i)]
- **2.2:** *How will the School ensure information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is provided to parents in a format and in a language that parents can understand (to the extent practicable)?*
 - *How is relevant information provided in a variety of ways? (For example, paper copies made available, as well as social media posts, website links, parent apps, etc.?*
[ESSA § 1116(e)(5)]
- **2.3:** *How does the School offer flexible opportunities for meetings with families?*
[ESSA § 1116(c)(2)]

[Text box for responses]

3: Building Staff Capacity

Lowell builds the staff capacity to work with parents as equal partners in a number of different ways. The ways this happens at Lowell include:

- Parent meetings to discuss progress/how parents and teachers can work together
- Parent/teacher conferences-2X a year minimum
- Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator leads professional development for staff in working with parents as equal partners
- The Lowell Compact is signed by parents, teachers, and the principal explaining the responsibilities of all involved to lead to success for students
- Staff is encouraged to attend all PTA meetings with a minimum requirement of 1 time per year

Guiding Questions

- **3.1:** *How does the School build staff capacity to work with parents as equal partners? This may include workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, and online resources that will be used to ensure ALL School staff (including teachers, specialized instructional personnel, principals, and other School leaders) are aware of:*
 - *the value and utility of contributions of parents [Title I schools]*
 - *how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners [Title I schools]*
 - *how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between home and the School [Title I schools]*
 - *how to respond to parent requests for parent and family engagement activities [Title I schools]*
 - *that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning [all schools]*
 - *how to welcome parents into the School and seek parental support and assistance [all schools]*
 - *the School's process for resolving parent concerns as outlined in the School handbook, including how to define a problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions [all schools]*

[ESSA § 1116(e)(3);14); A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(5-7); A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(3)(B(ii))]

[Text box for responses]

4: Building Parent Capacity

Lowell communicates with parents to provide information about curriculum, assessments, and standards. This is done by:

- Curriculum overviews sent home throughout the year
- Information related to curriculum, assessments, and standards are reviewed at the annual

report to the public meeting

- Curriculum, standards, and assessments can be accessed through the school website

Assistance is provided to parents to help them understand Title I, their student's progress, and how they can help improve their student's achievement. This is done by:

- Annual Title I meeting that is open to all families to attend. This meeting covers: an overview of Title I, the components of a school-wide Title I program, Parent's rights under Title I, opportunities for parental involvement, School goals, Smart Core Curriculum, and state and local resources.
- Parent meetings to discuss progress/how parents and teachers can work together
- Parent/teacher conferences-2X a year minimum (teachers can discuss with parents progress and how they can help).

Parents are an important part of their student's education. Lowell is willing to train/help any parent(s) that are looking to better support their student. This can be done by:

- Literacy and math curriculum nights for parents to see what their student has been working on and how they can help at home
- Meetings with teachers and/or academic facilitators to give parents activities and knowledge to help their children
- Parent nights to provide parents with strategies we use at school to improve behavior and social emotional skills

Lowell wants parents to be involved in their student's education as much as possible. Parents can participate in their child's education by:

- Volunteering for any of the various school activities that take place throughout the year
 - New volunteers will receive orientation to the building, suggestions on working with children, the importance of confidentiality, and the process for reporting concerns they have
- Attending curriculum nights, parent/teacher conferences, open house, PTA meetings, and/or special education/504 conferences to get information on how to help their children
- Parents will also have the opportunity to review Title I and report to the public information, the school engagement plan, and the school level improvement plan
- The parent advisory committee will also help develop some of the school goals and priorities

At Lowell, we are using Conscious Discipline to teach students social-emotional skills to help improve student well-being and behavior. We have additional parenting resources and a school social worker available to assist families. Lowell will support parents in this area by:

- Having materials that can be checked out through the library or school counselor
- Providing useful information to parents in the front office
- The availability of a social worker to help parents get access to parenting information and basic resources

Guiding Questions

- **4.1:** *How does the School provide timely information about the following:*
 - *a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the School*
 - *the forms of State and Local academic assessments used to measure student progress, including alternate assessments*

- *the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards students are expected to meet*
[ESSA § 1116(c)(4)(B)]
- **4.2:** *How does the School provide assistance to parents in understanding the following:*
 - *the requirements of Title I, Part A*
 - *how to monitor their child's progress*
 - *how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.*
[ESSA § 1116(e)(1)]
- **4.3:** *What types of materials and training does the School provide to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement? This may include:*
 - *literacy training*
 - *technology training, including education about copyright piracy and safe practices*
 - *resources that describe or assist with the child's curriculum*
 - *other activities such as workshops, conferences, online resources like tutorials or webinars, and any equipment or other materials, including parent resource centers*
[ESSA § 1116(e)(2)]
- **4.4:** *Involve parents of students at all grade levels in a variety of roles, including without limitation:*
 - *involvement in the education of their children*
 - *volunteer activities*
 - *learning activities and support classroom instruction*
 - *participation in School decisions*
 - *collaboration with the community*
 - *development of School goals and priorities*
 - *evaluating the effectiveness of the School-level Improvement Plan*
[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(1); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.03]
- **4.5:** *How does the School promote and support responsible parenting? The School shall, as funds are available:*
 - *purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting through the School library, advertise the current selection, and give parents an opportunity to borrow the materials for review*
 - *create parent centers*
[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(4)(A)]
- **4.6:** *How does the School provide instruction to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation:*
 - *role play and demonstration by trained volunteers*
 - *the use of and access to Division of Elementary and Secondary Education website tools for parents* [<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/>]
 - *assistance with nutritional meal planning*
[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(5)(B)(ii)(a-d)]

[Text box for responses]

5: Coordination.

Lowell is fortunate enough to have a number of community partners that pour into the success we have at Lowell. Some of our community partners include:

- Arvest Bank, Nestle, First Baptist Church-Lowell, JT's Tri Tip Grill, Lowell Fire and Police Departments, Hickory Creek Baptist Church, 4X4 Club, Impact Church, FBC-Bentonville, Lowell Fraternal Order of Police, Grace Baptist Church, and the Lowell Kiwanis Club, sponsor programs, provide resources to families, and volunteer when possible.
- The City of Lowell works with the school to provide a safe playground and gym for school and community use.
- Fire and Police Department employees are available for training and the Police Department provides assistance with safe arrival and dismissal. A school resource officer is assigned to Lowell.

Guiding Questions

- **5.1:** *How does the School investigate and utilize community resources in the instructional program?*
[ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 5.06]
- **5.2:** *How does the School coordinate and integrate programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs? Some examples include:*
 - *public preschool programs such as Head Start*
 - *organizations/activities to help students transition to elementary, middle, high, and postsecondary schools or careers*
 - *wraparound services that allow families to send their children to school ready and able to focus on learning*[ESSA §1116(e)(4)]
- **5.3:** *In what ways does the School enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association or organization and ensure leaders of said organization will be included in appropriate decisions?*
[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(8)(B)(ii)]

[Text box for responses]

6: Annual Title I Meeting *(Title I schools)*

Each year Lowell Elementary has an annual Title I Meeting to explain what it means to be a Title 1 School and the requirements that come with being a Title 1 school. This year, we will be holding our annual Title one meeting in October. Some highlights of the Title 1 Meeting include:

- Lowell's report card from the state
- An overview of Title 1
- How Title 1 helps Lowell Elementary students
- Parent and public rights under Title 1
- Our school goals stated in our School Level Improvement Plan (SLIP)

Guiding Questions

- **6.1:** *How and when (month/year) does the School conduct the Annual Title I meeting, ensuring that parents are informed of the following? (*Include a link to the detailed agenda, meeting minutes, and/or slide deck for this year's Annual Title I Meeting, if available.)*
 - *the requirements of Title I and the School's participation*
 - *the parents' rights under Title I (The Right to Know Teacher Qualifications, Right to Request Meetings)*
[ESSA § 1116(c)(1)]

[Text box for responses]

7: School-Parent Compact *(Title I schools)*

The parent advisory committee at Lowell created the Lowell Compact a few years ago, and is reviewed annually to make changes as needed. The compact outlines what the student, parent, teacher, and principal need to do in order to be successful.

The Lowell Compact can be accessed in a number of different ways:

- The school will provide a copy upon request
- The Lowell Compact will be reviewed yearly at conferences
- The Lowell Compact can be found on the district page-state required information>school plans>Lowell Elementary>parent compact (website below)
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rGluBCqckkFdmlk6kdW64Oe7d-LIEgox/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=110149506658265143742&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Guiding Questions

- **7.1:** *How does the School jointly develop a School-Parent Compact which does the following:*
 - *Outlines how parents, the entire School staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement*
 - *Addresses the importance of regular two-way, meaningful communication through:*
 - *conferences (no fewer than 2 each year)*
 - *frequent reports on progress*
 - *reasonable access to staff*
 - *opportunities to volunteer*

■ *observation of classroom activities*

[ESSA § 1116(d)]

- **7.2:** *How do families access the compact in order to understand the shared responsibility for improved student academic achievement?*
 - *including parent-teacher conferences in elementary Schools, at least annually*
 - *Include a link or insert the language of the compact to demonstrate this requirement has been met.*

[ESSA § 1116(d)(2)(A)]

[Text box for responses]

8: Reservation of Funds *(Title I schools)*

Lowell uses Title I, Part A funds in a number of different ways related to parent and family engagement programs. The parent advisory committee, in conjunction with Lowell's guiding coalition, determines how funds are spent. The focus is on curriculum, student achievement, and helping parents. When thinking about how funds are spent, the committee prioritizes activities that have the highest parental and family engagement. Some of the ways we use these funds to engage parents and families includes:

- Curriculum nights
- Breakfast with Grandparents

Guiding Questions

- **8.1:** *If the School is a recipient of set aside funds for parent and family engagement (as part of receiving a Title I, Part A allocation greater than \$500,000):*
 - *How is the School spending those funds?*
 - *How does the School determine the priority of how funds are spent?*
 - *Who is involved in determining that?*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(A)]

- **8.2:** *How does the School provide opportunities for parents and family members to be involved in providing input into how the funds are used?*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(B); ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(C); ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(D)(i-v)]

[Text box for responses]

Assurances

Please read the following statements closely. By checking these boxes, the School understands the legal requirements and will meet them accordingly.

☒ **A.1:** The School understands that annually by August 1, the public School's Engagement Plan shall be developed, or reviewed and updated.

[ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.3]

- ✓ **A.2:** The School understands that the following must be made available to families and the local community on the School or District website no later than August 1st:
- the School Engagement Plan
 - a parent-friendly explanation of the School and District's Engagement Plan
 - the informational packet
 - contact information for the parent facilitator designated by the School.
- [A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.4]
- ✓ **A.3:** The School understands that a parent-friendly summary/explanation of the Engagement Plan should be included in the current student handbook.
- [A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02]
- ✓ **A.4:** The School understands its obligation for ensuring professional development requirements related to parent and family engagement are met and that records are maintained accordingly.
- [A.C.A. § 6-15-1703(a); A.C.A. § 6-17-709]
- ✓ **A.5:** The School understands its obligation to obtain signatures for each parent acknowledging receipt of the District's Engagement Plan summary/explanation.
- [A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a)(3)(B)]
- ✓ **A.6:** The School Principal understands their obligation to designate and pay a licensed staff member to serve as Parent Facilitator:
- to help organize meaningful training for staff and parents,
 - to promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere, and
 - to undertake efforts to ensure that engagement is recognized as an asset to the School.
- [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(c)(1-2)]
- ✓ **A.7:** The School understands its obligation to encourage school staff to use volunteer surveys to compile a volunteer resource book.
- [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(6)(B)(ii)]
- ✓ **A.8:** The School understands its obligation to conduct no fewer than two parent-teacher conferences per school year.
- [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(3)(B)(ii)]
- ✓ **A.9:** The School understands its obligation to incorporate the Engagement Plan into the School Improvement Plan.
- [ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.02.2]
- ✓ **A.10:** The School understands its obligation to schedule regular parent involvement meetings at which parents are given a report on the state of the School and an overview of:
- what students will be learning
 - how students will be assessed
 - what a parent should expect for his or her child's education
 - how a parent can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education.
- [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(5)(B)(i)(a-d)]
- ✓ **A.11:** Any School serving high school students understands its obligation to educate parents about their role in decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and preparation for postsecondary opportunities.
- [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(7)(B)(ii)]
- ✓ **A.12:** The School understands its obligation to welcome parents into the School, and more specifically, not have any school policies or procedures that would discourage a parent from visiting the School or from visiting a child's classrooms.

[A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(6)(B)]

✓ **A.13:** The School understands that all Title I, Part A funded engagement activities and strategies should remain consistent with all information set forth in this parent and family engagement plan.

[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(D)]

✓ **A.14:** The School understands its obligation to submit to the State any comments from parents who deem the Title I Schoolwide Plan unsatisfactory. These comments can be sent to ade.engagementmatters@ade.arkansas.gov

[ESSA § 1116(b)(4)]

✓ **A.15:** The School understands its obligation, if requested by parents, to provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

[ESSA § 1116(c)(4)(C)]

School Information

School Name:	Lowell Elementary
School Engagement Facilitator Name:	Shawn Johnston
Plan Revision/Submission Date:	4/21/26
District Level Reviewer Name, Title:	Melody Sebastian
District Level Approval Date:	May 2026

Committee Members, Role

(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)

First Name	Last Name	Role <i>(Teacher, Staff, Parent, Student, or Community Member)</i>
Shawn	Johnston	Assistant Principal
Amanda	Reed Collett	Parent
Samantha	Harp	Parent
Elizabeth	Brown	Parent
Stephen	Bowman	Principal

References

State

- [Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1701 et seq.](#)
- [Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement](#)

Federal

- [Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act, 114 P.L. 95, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6312, 6318, 6320](#)

Find additional guidance on the [DESE Parent and Family Engagement Requirements](#) webpage. For any questions about completing this form or meeting legal compliance, please contact the DESE Engagement Unit at ade.engagementmatters@ade.arkansas.gov or visit our website [#EngagementMattersAR](#)