

ASBVI Parent and Family Engagement Plan Summary 2024-2025

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI) is committed to providing your child with the best possible education. We understand that this cannot be done without partnering with you. Research has shown that parent involvement has far-reaching benefits for a child's success in school.

At ASBVI, we want to make it as easy for you to be involved in every way possible. We have a Parent/Community/Teacher group, Friends of ASB, that will hold meetings throughout the school year. Scheduled Friends of ASB meetings will be posted on the ASBVI website at <https://asbvi.ade.arkansas.gov/> and links will be posted as well so parents can join virtually. We also have volunteer opportunities for parents, family members, and community members to be involved on-campus, virtually, or from home. Volunteer information will be provided at our Open House and Parent-Teacher Conferences and can also be found on the ASBVI website under the Parent tab. Also, look for a list of opportunities which are mailed from our administration at the beginning of each semester and please check our school website for news and a calendar of upcoming events in which you could be involved.

Communication is key to a successful partnership between home and school. In addition to receiving at least quarterly reports of your child's progress, two Parent/Teacher conferences have been scheduled for August 13, 2023, and April 1, 2024. More details will be provided later. Also, feel free to communicate with staff through email throughout the school year. All staff email is formatted as firstname.lastname@asb.k12.ar.us. We value your input into what we as a school are doing right and what we need to work on. Please take the opportunity to complete a Parent Survey that is provided during our Open House and Parent-Teacher Conferences and can be found on our website under the Parent tab. A survey related to special education will also be provided during annual review conferences.

Lastly, we are here to support you as you walk the journey of raising a child with a visual impairment. You are your child's first teacher and biggest influence. You can find resources at our Parent Resource Center located

in the waiting room of our Low Vision Clinic. During the school year, there will be opportunities for parent support meetings. These are typically in conjunction with our annual Braille Challenge and Cane Quest. If there are any other ways we can support you, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, our Parent Facilitator, Amanda Harrison (amanda.harrison@asb.k12.ar.us), or any administrator through email or by calling our main number at (501)296-1810.

You may view our complete Parent and Family Engagement Plan on our website by going to the Parents tab → Parent Information → Parent and Family Engagement Plan (under Related Links on the right side of the screen).

Thank you for your partnership!

The following activities are scheduled for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Teachers/10-Month Employees Return August 14th, 2024
- Open House, new Student/Parent Orientation, Parent Teacher Conferences – August 18, 2024 (12:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
- First Day of School – August 19, 2024
- Title 1 Meeting –TBA (6:00 p.m.)
- NWEA Testing– August 26 through August 30, 2024
- Braille Boot Camp – September 12, 2024 (5:30)- *online option*
- Literacy Night – October 10th , 2024 (5:00 – 7:00 PM)
- Parents Invited to Lunch Day –
- Report to the Public – (Board Meeting)
- AER – TBA 2024 *not listed on site*
- ASBVI Parade – November
- Chili Cook-off --
- Homecoming (wrestling and cheer) ,
- NWEA Testing – November 11-14, 2024
- Braille Bootcamp- November 19, 2024- (5:30)- *online option*
- Thanksgiving Luncheon for Parents – November 21, 2024
- Computer Science Night – December 12, 2024 (5:00-7:00 PM)
- Spelling Bee – December 5, 2024, at 2 p.m.
- Cookies with Santa – December
- Semester Tests –
- Parent Dinner/Christmas Concert – December 19, 2024
- County Spelling Bee – TBA
- Braille Challenge and Parent Workshops – February 6, 2025
- NWEA Testing – February 24-27, 2025
- Black History Assembly – February

- Parents Invited to Breakfast Day – March
Suggestion: Math Night – March 13, 2025 (close to Pi Day)
- Student Talent Show – March 20, 2025
- Parent-Teacher Conferences/Open House– April 4th, 2025
- 4th Annual Cane Quest – (TBA)
- Senior Prom – April 2025
- Spring Semester Tests –
- Athletic Banquet – ,
- Parent Appreciation Dinner/Spring Concert – May 1, 2025
- High School Graduation – May 22nd, 2025
- Kindergarten Graduation – May 28, 2025
- Student Last Day – June 6th, 2025
- Teachers’/10-Month Employees Last Day – June 10th, 2025

Ongoing “Friends of ASB” meetings will be held (at a minimum) each month as announced by the parent liaison or a school official. Parents and community members may now attend meetings through a chosen virtual platform. (Directions will be provided)

ASBVI will sponsor parent support meetings each school year to provide information concerning how parents can become directly involved in their child’s education; to exchange parent-to-parent information; to gain up-to-date information concerning parent rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Due Process; and other parent engagement/development issues related to educational and family needs such as:

- (a) Christmas Cookies with Santa – December 9, 2023
- (b) Parents of VI Students Forum-In conjunction with 2023-2024
Arkansas Braille Challenge

A minimum of two Parent-Teacher conferences will be held annually to provide parents with information concerning their child’s academic success and increase direct parent engagement with the teacher in the academic and extracurricular programs of each student. Parents may call for a conference at any time throughout the school year. The days listed are available as are accommodations for parents who have to travel to attend conferences.

- (a) Registration Day Orientation and Parent Teacher Conference – August 13, 2023
- (b) Parent Conference Day – August 13, 2023
- (c) Parent Conference Day – April 1, 2024
- (d) Individual Due Process Conferences throughout the course of each school year will be held as required by law or requested by parents
- (e) Annual Review/Parent Conferences – Varies by student

Each parent will annually receive an updated student handbook stating school requirements, school rules and regulations, resolutions of student issues and offenses, students' absentee policies and general school information required by the Arkansas Department of Education and Act 307, House Bill 1521.

A Parent Resource Center is established to provide materials to parents that will increase student success, as well as provide information to parents that reflect the specific needs of their child and their family. The Parent Resource Center will also provide direct access to on-line computers for research purposes, books and magazines concerning visual impairment and blindness, educational materials and information, Due Process materials and information, and grade level kits that will provide specific information about grade level academics, specific eye diseases, necessary modifications and accommodations for students, advocacy groups, etc.

- (a) Computer access
- (b) Grade level kits containing relevant information about academics & extracurricular activities, school handbook, etc.
- (c) Academic Books
- (d) Relevant materials concerning visual impairments
- (e) Magazines, journals
- (f) Parent Resource List
- (g) Email addresses of school
- (h) Student Handbooks and school policies
- (i) Parent Overnight Accommodations

A certified staff member will be appointed annually to fulfill the role of parent facilitator. The facilitator will engage in communication with parents and organize meaningful training for parents and staff in the areas of

promoting and encouraging a welcoming atmosphere to parental engagement. The facilitator will also undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset of the school.

Parents who are involved with their child's education will be acknowledged through school newsletter articles commending them for their dedication and support. Other forms of parent appreciation will be used such as: social media recognition, certificates, and community recognition.

Administrators and faculty members will be available to conduct seminars and provide information for parents of blind and visually impaired children in an effort to help them access appropriate academic, extracurricular, social and functional performance information, as well as Due Process/Parental Rights information concerning their child's education.

Additionally, parent engagement and participation information will be provided on the ASBVI website, in school newsletters, through ASBVI Parent Resource Center, and through general correspondence from the Superintendent, Principals and Teachers.

- (a) ASBVI Web Site
- (b) School Newsletters
- (c) Parent Notices & Letters
- (d) Parent Resource Center
- (e) Welcome-Back School Letter containing school calendar, telephone numbers, email addresses, relevant information, etc.

Staff development opportunities will be provided each year for faculty, staff and parents. Per the Department of Education and State of Arkansas (Act 969 of 2013), 2 hours of professional development regarding parental engagement is mandated. (*see requirements below)