

2026-27 Arkansas Engagement Plan Ozark Mountain High School

Please read over the updated form closely. Note the new Assurances section allows you to confirm practices that are *required* but do not need further elaboration. In the response fields, please include links to additional information that can help support your story as you answer the guiding questions.

Ozark Mountain High School works collaboratively with parents and families to develop, review, and evaluate policies and programs that promote meaningful engagement and directly support student academic achievement. These efforts are rooted in a shared commitment to transparency, inclusion, and responsiveness to the specific needs of students and their families.

1.1: Collaboration in Creating the Engagement Plan

In accordance with A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(a), the school develops its Parent and Family Engagement Plan in collaboration with a committee of parents. This year's plan was reviewed and updated at a committee meeting, where input was collected to evaluate the effectiveness of prior strategies and to shape future efforts. Once finalized, the plan is made widely accessible in the following ways:

- Posted on the **school website** and **school Facebook page**
- Displayed in the **school foyer**
- Distributed during **Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- Filed with the **Department of Education**

The plan includes a range of programs and practices that reflect the school's academic improvement goals, as well as the engagement needs of our families. These include materials available for parent checkout in the library, computer access for grade monitoring and academic support, and annual informational packets that outline family roles, planned events, and communication strategies between home and school.

1.2: Ensuring Representation and Inclusion of Title I Families

As required by ESSA §1116(c)(3), Ozark Mountain High School makes a concerted effort to ensure that families of Title I students are well-represented in all engagement planning and decision-making processes. This includes:

- Distributing a **Parent Involvement Survey** with beginning-of-year paperwork and through **school social media** to recruit members for the Parent Involvement Committee
- Encouraging all parents to review and provide feedback on the **Title I Plan**, available in the Parent Resource Center and provided at fall Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Providing digital access to the plan through the **school's website**
- Including parents in the **annual evaluation of the Title I, Part A program** via a comprehensive fall semester needs assessment, which gathers data on workshop attendance,

parent needs, strategy effectiveness, and family involvement in academic support

Additionally, the school provides **a certified Parent Facilitator**, as required by the state, to coordinate engagement efforts and serve as a liaison between school staff and families.

Supporting Structures for Engagement

- **Volunteer Interest Surveys** are sent home at the beginning of the year to match parents with opportunities that align with their interests.
- **Parent Informational Packets** are distributed annually and include details about engagement activities, communication systems (notes, calls, email), and guidance on family involvement.
- **Parent Compact Agreements**, found in the Ozark Mountain School District Handbook and online, outline shared responsibilities among parents, teachers, and students to support learning goals.
- The **Parent Center**, located in the school library, houses parenting books and educational resources. A catalog of materials is posted on the school's website.
- The school promotes **responsible parenting** through advertised, borrowable resources and ensures a clear **process for resolving parental concerns**, published in the school handbook.

Through these measures, Ozark Mountain High School ensures that its Parent and Family Engagement Plan is not only jointly developed, but also reflective of the real needs, voices, and aspirations of its families.

Ozark Mountain High School recognizes that strong, consistent communication with families is essential to student success. The school is committed to providing timely, accessible, and clear information to parents and guardians through a variety of formats, ensuring they are well-informed and actively engaged in their child's education.

2.1: Annual Informational Packets and Two-Way Communication

In compliance with A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(3)(B)(i), the school distributes an annual informational packet tailored to the age and grade level of each child. This packet includes:

- A description of the Parent and Family Engagement Program
- Recommended roles for parents, students, teachers, and the school, as outlined in the Parent-Teacher Compact (included in the Ozark Mountain School District Handbook and posted on the district website)
- Suggestions for ways families can become involved in their child's education
- A calendar of parent and family engagement activities scheduled throughout the school year
- A volunteer interest survey, distributed with the beginning-of-year paperwork
- Information on the school's regular, two-way communication systems, including phone calls, notes, emails, and parent-teacher conferences

To further support ongoing communication, parents are given PIN access to an online gradebook system. Parents are also encouraged to visit the Parent Resource Center in the school library, where they may use school computers to check grades and browse educational websites.

2.2: Accessible, Understandable, and Multi-Format Communication

Ozark Mountain High School ensures that all communication related to school programs, meetings, and activities is provided in a format and language that parents can understand, as practicable, in accordance with ESSA §1116(e)(5).

Information is shared in multiple formats, including:

- Printed handouts and notices sent home
- Updates posted on the school's website and Facebook page
- Reminders through school messaging systems and mobile apps
- Verbal communication during meetings and conferences

The Title I Plan and Parent and Family Engagement Plan are available in the Parent Resource Center, located in the front hallway and school library. Copies are provided to parents at fall Parent-Teacher Conferences and are accessible on the school's website and social media pages. A list of available parenting resources is also posted online.

2.3: Flexible Meeting Opportunities

In compliance with ESSA §1116(c)(2), the school offers flexible scheduling for parent meetings and events. Parent-Teacher Conferences are held during both daytime and evening hours to accommodate working families. Additional meetings with teachers, counselors, or administrators can be arranged upon request. The school encourages open communication through in-person visits, phone calls, virtual meetings, and written correspondence, depending on each family's needs.

Additional Supports

- **Parent Resource Center:** Located in the school library, this center offers parenting books, magazines, and other helpful materials, which are advertised and available for check-out.
- **Parent Facilitator:** A certified Parent Facilitator is designated to coordinate and support the school's family engagement efforts.
- **Parental Concern Process:** The school handbook outlines a clear, step-by-step process for resolving parental concerns, including identifying the issue, who to contact, and how to seek resolution.

Through these practices, Ozark Mountain High School maintains clear, consistent, and welcoming communication that supports strong school-family partnerships and encourages active participation in the educational process.

Ozark Mountain High School is dedicated to building the capacity of all staff members to work with parents as equal partners in the educational process. Our approach is rooted in ongoing professional development, clear communication practices, and an emphasis on shared responsibility for student success.

3.1: Staff Development for Family Engagement

In compliance with the State Board of Education's *Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts*, all teachers and administrators at Ozark Mountain High School completed the required hours of Family Engagement professional development in August 2022. This training was delivered through **Arkansas IDEAS** and focused on the importance of parent involvement, effective communication strategies, and inclusive practices that value the contributions of all families.

To ensure comprehensive training across all school roles, **specialized instruction** will also be provided to support personnel, administrators, and classified staff. With the assistance of parents, this instruction emphasizes the following:

- The value and utility of parent contributions in supporting student learning
- How to reach out to and communicate with parents as **equal partners**, including those with diverse needs or languages
- Strategies to implement and coordinate parent involvement programs
- Ways to welcome families into the school environment and seek parental support
- Procedures for addressing and resolving parent concerns as outlined in the school handbook

Resources and Opportunities for Families

In support of this commitment, Ozark Mountain High School will:

- Distribute a **flyer promoting Arkansas Department of Education family engagement resources**, including tools available on their website. This flyer will be sent home in backpacks and posted to the school website and social media pages.
- Host an **Open House on August 6, 2026**, where parents will receive school information, meet staff, and be introduced to available school and community resources.
- Provide **face-to-face and virtual instruction** to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment.

Ozark Mountain High School is dedicated to strengthening the role of parents in supporting student academic success. Through ongoing communication, parent training opportunities, resource sharing, and involvement in decision-making, the school empowers families to take an active and informed role in their children's education.

4.1: Providing Timely Academic Information

In accordance with *ESSA § 1116(c)(4)(B)*, Ozark Mountain High School provides families with timely and accessible information regarding curriculum, assessments, and academic expectations. During **Parent-Teacher Conferences** held on **September 24, 2026** and **February 4, 2027**, parents receive updates on the curriculum, grading practices, state and local assessments—including alternate assessments—and the performance standards students are expected to meet. The **Open House on August 6, 2026** introduces families to instructional resources, course overviews, and student expectations. Additional updates are posted to the school website, social media platforms, and digital parent communication tools such as **Remind**.

4.2: Assisting Parents in Understanding Title I and Monitoring Student Progress

To comply with *ESSA § 1116(e)(1)*, the school hosts a **Title I Annual Meeting** in **September 2026**, led by **Federal Programs Coordinator Melissa King**, to review Title I, Part A requirements and explain the services it provides. During this meeting and throughout the year, parents receive guidance on how to monitor academic progress through the online gradebook and parent portals, accessible from school computers or personal devices. The **School-Parent Compact Meeting**, also in **September 2026**, further explains shared responsibilities for student achievement and strategies for effective home-school collaboration.

4.3: Materials and Training to Help Parents Support Achievement

Ozark Mountain High School provides a variety of materials and learning opportunities to help parents support their children's success, in accordance with *ESSA § 1116(e)(2)*. Resources are available for check-out in the **school library**, including books and materials on literacy, parenting, and academic support. Computers are available for parents to check grades or visit educational websites. A flyer highlighting tools from the **Division of Elementary and Secondary Education** website is distributed to families and posted online and on Facebook. Instruction on supporting learning at home is provided both in person and virtually, with sessions focused on developmentally appropriate activities, technology

use, and safe digital practices.

4.4: Involving Parents in Multiple Roles

Aligned with A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(1) and ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.03, the school encourages parents to participate in a wide variety of roles. Parents are invited to engage in volunteer activities, attend **monthly PTO meetings**, serve on school committees, assist with learning activities, and collaborate on the development of school goals and priorities. Feedback from parents is used in the evaluation of the School Improvement Plan and other academic initiatives.

4.5: Promoting Responsible Parenting

To support responsible parenting as outlined in A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(4)(A), the school provides access to informative parenting materials through the **school library**. These include books, magazines, and handouts on child development, academic support, and positive discipline. Available resources are advertised through the school website and newsletters, and parents are encouraged to borrow materials for use at home. The school is exploring opportunities to create a formal **Parent Resource Center**, as funding allows.

4.6: Instruction on Developmentally Appropriate Learning at Home

In keeping with A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(5)(B)(ii), the school provides instruction to parents on how to implement developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home. This includes workshops conducted by staff and trained volunteers. Parents are introduced to state-provided online tools (e.g., <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/>) particularly for high school students preparing for postsecondary transitions. The school supports college and career readiness through events such as **college days**, visits from **college and trade school representatives**, **military recruiters**, and **financial aid workshops**. Seniors receive training in career research, college application processes, and personal finance planning—efforts that are communicated clearly to families.

Ozark Mountain High School recognizes that when families are informed, equipped, and empowered, student outcomes improve. The school remains committed to strengthening its partnership with parents by providing the tools, training, and opportunities needed to support every student's academic journey.

Ozark Mountain High School is committed to engaging a network of organizations, businesses, and community partners—including alumni—to ensure students and families are supported academically, socially, and emotionally. Our goal is to remove barriers to learning by integrating external resources and wraparound services into the school environment.

5.1: Investigating and Utilizing Community Resources in the Instructional Program

In accordance with ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 5.06, the school regularly assesses community resources and strategically incorporates them into the instructional program and support services. For example:

- **Chenal Family Therapy** provides weekly and as-needed mental health counseling for students. These services are coordinated with school staff to ensure students' emotional and behavioral needs are addressed in tandem with academic progress.
- **OUR Cooperative** supplies toothbrush kits to K-6 students, promoting health education and hygiene, which are essential to consistent school attendance and participation.

- **TRIO Talent Search**, a federal program offered in partnership with local institutions, provides college and career readiness support, including financial aid counseling, goal-setting, and college visits, integrated into secondary instruction.

5.2: Coordinating with Federal, State, and Local Programs

Aligned with *ESSA §1116(e)(4)*, Ozark Mountain High School partners with a wide range of programs to support transitions between educational levels and provide wraparound services that allow students to arrive at school ready to learn. Examples include:

- Collaboration with **Head Start and local pre-K providers** ensures a smooth transition into kindergarten.
- The school organizes **career and college exploration activities**, job-shadowing experiences, and work-based learning opportunities in partnership with local businesses and postsecondary institutions.
- The **Brandon Burlsworth Foundation** and **Lions Club** ensure students have access to prescription eyeglasses, removing a key obstacle to classroom learning.
- The **Rotary Club** donates clothing and hygiene items, while the **McKenna Grace Foundation** provides winter coats, both supporting basic needs so students can focus on school without distraction.

- **Supporting Transitions and Communication**

The school employs a Career Coach that supports students and families by helping students explore college, career, military, and workforce opportunities. The Career Coach works with students to identify interests, strengths, and future goals; assists with career planning, college applications, scholarships, financial aid, resumes, job readiness skills, and postsecondary planning; and helps connect students with local workforce, training, and educational opportunities. The Career Coach also serves as a resource for parents by providing information about graduation pathways, career options, college and technical programs, financial aid, and other opportunities that support student success after high school. This partnership helps ensure that students and families are informed, prepared, and supported as students transition from school to their next step.. and will partner with **colleges, trade schools, and the military** to ease the move from high school to postsecondary life.

- Seniors engage in activities such as:
 - Career and college research
 - College application and FAFSA workshops

Parents are kept informed of these activities and other important events through:

- The school website and social media
- Remind text messages
- The school sign and printed flyers

Through these coordinated efforts, Ozark Mountain High School ensures that staff are not only trained

but also supported in treating parents as respected and essential partners in education.

Ozark Mountain High School recognizes the importance of keeping parents well-informed of their rights and responsibilities under the Title I program. The school ensures compliance with *ESSA §1116(c)(1)* by conducting an Annual Title I Meeting designed to inform families about the program, the school's participation, and opportunities for parental involvement.

6.1: Conducting the Annual Title I Meeting

Ozark Mountain High School will hold its Annual Title I Meeting in the **fall 2026**, ensuring families are fully informed about:

- The **requirements of Title I**
- The **school's participation in Title I programming**
- **Parental rights** under Title I, including the *Right to Know Teacher Qualifications* and the *Right to Request Meetings*

The meeting will be held **in-person and/or virtually**, providing flexible options for families to attend. The school will **advertise the date, time, and format of the meeting** using multiple communication channels including the **school marquee, official school website, and school Facebook page** to maximize outreach and awareness.

To ensure clarity and focus, the **Annual Title I Meeting will be held separately** from other school events or parent meetings. This format allows ample time to deliver a detailed explanation of:

- The school curriculum
- Academic assessment tools and standards
- Expectations for student achievement
- Opportunities for parental involvement

- Procedures for requesting teacher qualification information and parent conferences

The following documentation will be generated specifically for the Title I meeting and **maintained on file in the school office**:

- A detailed **agenda**
- **Sign-in sheets**
- Official **meeting minutes**

Parents will also have the opportunity to ask questions, provide input, and learn how they can actively participate in their child's academic success through Title I initiatives.

Ozark Mountain High School

Ozark Mountain High School recognizes the critical role that families, staff, and students play in academic success. In accordance with *ESSA §1116(d)*, the school jointly develops and annually reviews a School-Parent Compact that outlines the shared responsibilities for improved student academic achievement and establishes the foundation for a strong school-family partnership.

7.1: Development and Key Components of the Compact

The School-Parent Compact is collaboratively developed with input from families, teachers, administrators, and students through surveys, Title I parent meetings, and the annual spring parent engagement forum. During these gatherings, stakeholders discuss the compact's content and make revisions based on school goals and student needs.

The compact clearly defines the shared responsibilities of parents, school staff, and students in the following areas:

- Supporting high academic expectations by ensuring regular attendance, completing assignments, and engaging in learning activities at home and school.
- Participating in a minimum of two parent-teacher conferences per year, during which the compact is reviewed and progress discussed.
- Providing families with frequent reports on student progress, including mid-term updates and report cards each grading period.
- Offering reasonable access to teachers and administrators through scheduled conferences, email, phone calls, and drop-in office hours.
- Creating meaningful volunteer opportunities and allowing parents to observe classroom

activities by appointment, thereby promoting transparency and trust.

7.2: Access and Communication of the Compact

The compact is distributed to all families in multiple formats to ensure accessibility and understanding:

- It is published in the **Student Handbook**, which is provided both in print and online at the beginning of the school year.
- A hard copy of the compact is provided and discussed at the **fall and spring parent-teacher conferences**, with signatures collected to affirm commitment from parents, teachers, and students.
- The compact is reviewed and revised **annually**, with feedback collected during family engagement events, surveys, and advisory committee meetings.
- Families may also access the compact anytime via the school's website
- By maintaining open communication and clearly outlining shared responsibilities, Ozark Mountain High School ensures families are empowered to be full partners in their child's education.

Ozark Mountain School District is committed to using Title I, Part A funds set aside for parent and family engagement to build meaningful partnerships between families, educators, and the community. These funds are used strategically to increase participation, foster two-way communication, and create opportunities for families to be involved in the academic success of their children.

8.1: Use of Set-Aside Funds

In accordance with *ESSA §1116(a)(3)(A)*, the district allocates Title I, Part A set-aside funds specifically for parent and family engagement activities. These funds are used to support:

- **Parent meetings and training sessions**, including those focused on literacy, student achievement, and effective parenting strategies.
- **School events that promote family involvement**, such as Open House, Family Literacy Nights, and Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- **Materials and resources** that help parents support learning at home, including take-home packets and access to online tools.
- **Childcare and refreshments** during family events, when appropriate, to remove barriers to attendance.

Prioritization of spending is based on feedback gathered from school-level needs assessments, previous event attendance, and input from parents and educators. School administrators, teachers, parent leaders, and the District Federal Programs Coordinator collaborate to determine how these funds can

have the greatest impact.

8.2: Parent and Family Input in Budget Decisions

In alignment with *ESSA §1116(a)(3)(B-D)*, the district ensures that parents and family members are involved in planning and decision-making around the use of set-aside funds through the following methods:

- **Annual Title I Parent Meetings**, where parents learn about the school's Title I program and are invited to provide input on engagement priorities.
- **Parent surveys**, which help gather feedback on the usefulness of current programs and desired future activities.
- **Parent and family engagement committees**, which include parent representatives
- **Public review of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan**, which includes opportunities for comment and revision based on stakeholder input.

Through these strategies, Ozark Mountain School District ensures that parent and family engagement funds are used effectively and reflect the priorities of the families we serve.

School Name:	Ozark Mountain High School
School Engagement Facilitator Name:	Kim Gilley
Plan Revision/Submission Date:	May 15, 2026
District Level Reviewer Name, Title:	
District Level Approval Date:	

Committee Members

Name	Role (Teacher, Staff, Parent, Student, or Community Member)
Kim Gilley	Parent Facilitator
Mary Wheeler	Parent
Megan Hill	Parent
Kelly Smith	PTO Representative
Melissa King	Building Administrator
Byron Clyatt	Teacher

