GREENE COUNTY TECH SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN
5413 WEST KINGSHIGHWAY
PARAGOULD AR 72450
870-236-2762

School Year: 2020-2021
Superintendent: Gene Weeks
District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator Kem Drake
kem.drake@gctsd.k12.ar.us

Parent and Family Engagement Committee Members
Kem Drake Administrator of Gifted Programs, District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator
Ray Stricker High School Counselor
Ersula Bruner Social Worker
Emily Kueter Parent of Graduated Students & Business Owner
Carl Nelson Parent
Chad Register Parent
Natalie Stone Parent
The Greene County Tech School District is committed to supporting parents and families to ensure the best possible education for our students. During the uncertain times of the COVID-19 Greene County Tech School District wants to ensure you that the district is following the Arkansas Department of Health guidelines, the Center for Disease Control, and the Arkansas Ready for Learning initiative of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The goal of GCT is to provide the safest learning environment possible for everyone involved in our student’s educational experience.

Please visit the Greene County Tech School District website for further information under the Ready for Learning tab. Here you will find the district’s Ready for Learning Plan, Frequently Asked Questions about our initiative for education during the COVID-19 Pandemic, information about GCT Virtual Learning Academy and many documents related to our Ready for Learning Plan.

In addition, each building’s Parent and Family Engagement Plan is on the district website under the State Required Information tab. Each plan contains a calendar of events, contact people for all areas of the plan, and specific people to reach out to if you need assistance or training in a particular area to help you be an active participant in your child’s education.

Greene County Tech School Districts is committed to supporting parent and family engagement in the following ways:

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

- Recruit parents for the District Parent and Family Engagement Committee
- The District Parent and Family Engagement Committee shall:
  - Develop a District Parent and Family Engagement Plan
  - Implement District Parent and Family Engagement activities
  - File the Parent and Family Engagement Plan with the Department of Education by August 1st.
✓ Place the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan on the district website by August 1st.
✓ Disseminate information to the community to promote parent and family engagement in the Title I, Part A schools.

Kem Drake, District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator 870-215-4460 Ext. 6056

➢ Involve parents in an annual survey to improve district effectiveness. Each spring the Parent and Family Engagement survey is conducted. This survey gathers parent input in their rating of each buildings program, atmosphere, safety and other characteristics. The data from these surveys are used to help evaluate the effectiveness of the district’s relationship with parents, as well as communication and programs offered to our stakeholders. It is used in planning the ACSIP and Parent and Family Engagement Plans for the following year.

➢ Recruit parents to serve on district ACSIP committee to develop the Title I Application. Tammy Birmingham, Special Programs Director 870-236-2762

➢ Establish expectations and objectives for meaningful involvement, reflecting the specific needs of GCT students and families.

➢ Involve parents and families in the decisions regarding how funds reserved for parent and family engagement are allotted for activities.

➢ Strive to ensure adequate representation of parents and families of GCT children in all aspects of the Parent and Family Engagement process.

➢ Incorporate the Parent and Family Engagement plan into the school wide ACSIP Plan.

➢ Comments and suggestions from all stakeholders about the district and school’s Parent and Family Engagement Plans and activities are welcome and will be addressed at the appropriate level.

➢ Encourage the formation of partnerships between the district and local businesses that includes roles for parents. Greene County Tech School District participates in the Partners in Education program organized by the Paragould Chamber of Commerce. This program networks school, business, and community members to implement opportunities that support education.

➢ Coordinate parental and family engagement activities with other programs such as State-run Preschool programs, ABC Preschool Program, Reading Recovery, Summer Day Camp, Plus After-Care Program, Renaissance
Learning, Lincoln Learning, Backpack Program, Laying the Foundation, AAIMS, and College Board Advanced Placement.

2: Building Staff Capacity through Training and Technical Assistance

- Provide professional development in accordance with the State Board of Education’s Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts. No fewer than two (2) hours of professional development for teachers designed to enhance the understand of effective parent and family engagement strategies. No fewer than two (2) hours of professional development for administrators designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies; and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.

- Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools in the district to:
  - Jointly-developed school patent and family engagement plans
  - Implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance
  - Jointly-developing a school-family compact

- Enhance the awareness and skills of teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in:
  - The value and utility of contributions of parents
  - How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
  - How to implement and coordinate parent programs

- Provide training at least annually for volunteers.

- Provide parent-friendly summaries and copies of the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan to any stakeholder who wishes a copy. Signatures from parent acknowledging the receipt of the plan will be maintained.

- Provide a copy of the school policy at each school for parents to view as well as provide a copy to each parent. In addition, the district and each school's parent and family engagement plan is posted on the school website.
Ensure that parents of children with disabilities or limited English proficiency have the same access as other parents including information in a language and form they can understand.

Ensure, to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and form parents can understand. Every effort is made to reach parents with pertinent information, and when necessary informational content is translated for better communication. Print, phone messages, e-mail, website, school's Facebook pages, and television are all utilized as modes to reach parents. Building Principals are responsible for ensuring that this happens. Contact your child’s principal’s office.

3: Building Parent Capacity

Provide information and assistance to participating parents in such areas as:

- The challenging State academic standards
- State and local academic assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children

Information is also distributed through various print forms, phone messages, e-mail, website, and television in an effort to reach all parents.

Provide materials and training not otherwise available to assist parents in supporting their child's academic achievement. Age appropriate literacy, math, and other opportunities are provided at each Greene County Tech school.

Monitor each Title I, Part A school to ensure that each school performs the following tasks:

- Develop parental and family engagement policy.
- Offer flexible meeting times.
- Provide information to parents about the school's program, include parent information guide.
- Develop and use the School-Parent Compact.
✔ Provide training for parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement, to include training on the e-School, Remind, Google Classroom, Lincoln Learning, and Class Dojo in order to have real-time access to their child's attendance and achievement. The Greene County Tech School District implements a number of programs throughout the district that reaches out to parents to assist them with their child’s academic success. These programs vary by school and age appropriateness. The student handbook and other correspondences as well as parent-teacher conferences and parent nights assist parents with these programs and opportunities. Contact your child's counselor's office.

➢ Shall entertain parent and family requests and strive to provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as possible.

➢ Provide information on adult literacy training available in the community.

➢ Encourage parents to visit/volunteer at school by assisting staff in developing volunteer opportunities as well as training staff to encourage and build volunteer efforts.

➢ Greene County Tech School District assists in the development of parent engagement groups at each school. School administration and staff work with all parent groups from PTO to group booster organizations in an attempt to foster positive parent-school relationships for positive impact on our students. Organizations may request the use of facilities for meetings and programs designed to support the mission of the school and student achievement. Contact your child's principal's office for more information.

➢ Encourage the formation of partnerships between schools and local businesses that includes roles for parents.

4: Reservation and Evaluation

➢ Greene County Tech School District will reserve a minimum of 1% of the Title I, Part A allocation for parent and family engagement, with 90% going to Title I, Part A schools, with priority given to "high-need" schools.

✔ Involve parents and families in the decisions regarding how funds reserved for parent and family engagement are allotted for parent involvement activities.
Ensure the funded activities and strategies are consistent with the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

The Greene County Tech School District values the input of all parents. Each spring the annual survey is sent to all parents to gather their perspective of our schools in a number of areas. The data from the survey is studied to identify barriers, needs and strategies to help GCT improve school effectiveness. The results are documented in the annual report and impact ACSIP and Parent and Family Engagement Plan actions for future academic years. Kem Drake, District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator 870-215-4460 Ext. 6056

Provide any reasonable support for parental involvement at the request of participating Title I, Part A schools. Greene County Tech School District is in compliance with all state and federal regulations governing parental involvement. Budget funding is in place to implement the programs planned to fulfill these obligations. Individual school Parent and Family Engagement and ACSIP plans outline the specific programs at each grade level.

Conduct an annual review and approval of each GCT school’s Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

Review and update the Greene County Tech School District Parent and Family Engagement Plan annually by August 1st.

5: Coordination

Coordinate and integrate programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs.

Greene County Tech School District employee’s four social workers to support services for our students and families. The following are some of the services they provide to our families:

- Food Backpacks
- Clothing Closet
- School Supplies
- Hygiene Products
- Home visits
- Transportation
- Medical, Dental, and Eye care appointments and assistance
- Thanksgiving Boxes
- Christmas Adopt a Child
Hair Cut Program
Application Assistance for Food Stamps, Medicaid, and other services
Referrals to outside agencies
Attendance/Truancy

➢ GCT Primary School has a fulltime Parent Center and Parent Center Coordinator. It houses and provides many of the services listed above in coordination with the schools social worker.

➢ GCTHS participates in the Partners In Education program through the Paragould Chamber of Commerce. Partners In Education is a volunteer program structured to build effective partnerships between the community and local schools to promote and enhance learning. Opportunities include Lunch Buddies, Career Orientation, Tutoring, School Event Participation, Job Shadowing, Christmas Sponsorship, etc.

✓ GCTHS’s Partners In Education are AXIS, Black River Technical College, and OPAA Food Management
✓ GCT Jr. High School’s Partners In Education are Education Solution Services/Subteach and Martin Sprocket & Gear
✓ GCT Middle School’s Partners In Education are First National Bank and Belk
✓ GCT Intermediate School’s Partners In Education are Simmons Bank and Ridge Kids Dental
✓ GCT Elementary School’s Partners In Education are Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, and Focus Bank
✓ GCT Primary School’s Partners In Education are Flower Shop Network, Ridge Kids Dental, and Sonic Store #5127

Please feel free to contact any of Greene County Tech School District’s Parent and Family Engagement Facilitators for more information about the districts Parent and Family Engagement Program.

➢ GCT District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator Kem Drake 870-215-4460 Ext. 6056

➢ GCT High School Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator Madison Rowe 870-215-4460

➢ GCT Junior High Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator Sherri McNamara 870-215-4450
- GCT Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator Kim Simpson 870-215-4480
- GCT Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator Kim Kellums 870-215-4430
- GCT Primary School Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator Amber Farmer 870-215-4420

Please visit the individual building Parent and Family Engagement Plans to learn what opportunities are available for you at each grade level. Simply select State Required Information and then select Parent and Family Engagement Plan and select the school plan you are interested in.