



# Jere Whitson Elementary School

2022-2023

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy for Shared Student Success

### School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

#### What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Jere Whitson Elementary School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. JWES values the contributions and involvement of families to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that JWES will support family engagement and how families can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

#### How is it revised?

Jere Whitson Elementary School invites parents, teachers, and community members to family engagement meetings throughout the year to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, our family-school compacts, and the family engagement budget. Additionally, family input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through the family-friendly survey, which is distributed annually online and through paper copies. The plan is also posted on our school website for families to review throughout the year. All feedback received will be used to revise the plan for the next school year.

#### Why do we need it?

All students enrolled in a Title I school and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan.

#### Where is it available?

This plan is given to all students at the beginning of the year, as well as new students when they enroll. The plan is on the school website, and families may also request an additional copy at any time during the school year.

#### What is Title I?

Jere Whitson Elementary School is identified as a Title I School as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging state academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop, with parents and family members, a written parent and family engagement policy.

Jere Whitson Elementary  
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[www.jerewhitsonwildcats.com](http://www.jerewhitsonwildcats.com)

Our purpose is to encourage and

sustain a caring  
environment where our students  
achieve academic and  
social-emotional growth.



**All Means All:** JWES will provide a well-rounded, comprehensive approach to help meet the needs of the whole child.

**Improve College and Career Readiness:** JWES will support the district goal by delivering strong instruction and having high expectations to support student growth and achievement in order to enhance and increase future ACT scores and graduation rates. Through early career education, we will inspire JWES students to be college and career ready.

**Academic Success for All:** The instructional focus at JWES is for all students to perform at grade-level across all subject areas. Individual student needs will be met by differentiating instruction within the classroom and providing a tiered approach to intervention services. JWES will support teachers in delivering strong instruction using district approved, high quality curricular materials that incorporate engaging, grade-appropriate tasks and assignments. Student annual performance will reflect both increased achievement and growth as a result of strengthened instruction.

\* Goals for 2022-23 are currently being developed by the School Improvement Plan Committee.

## Parent and Family Engagement

Jere Whitson Elementary School believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication about student learning and progress, as well as other school activities. This ensures that:

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

## Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Jere Whitson Elementary School and our families have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

- Welcoming All Families
- Communicating Effectively
- Supporting Student Success
- Speaking Up for Every Child
- Sharing Power
- Collaborating w/ Community

# Empowering and Supporting Parents

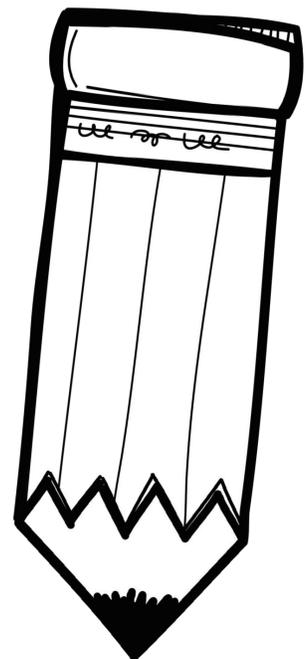
Jere Whitson Elementary School will take the following measures to empower and support parents and family members as an important foundation of our school in order to strengthen the school and reach our goals.

We will:

- Ensure that all information related to school and family programs, workshops, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and Spanish and posted on the school website calendar.
- Partner with early childhood programs, middle and high schools, college and career ready resources or organizations, parent resource centers, or other programs to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- Share information in English and Spanish for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments, as well as ways families can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school-wide events and activities using flyers, newsletters, our website, social media, and School Messenger.
- Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, workshops, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- Collect feedback from parents and family members at all events, during all committee meetings, and through the annual Family-Friendly Survey.

## Family-School Compacts

As part of this plan, Jere Whitson Elementary School and our families have developed a family-school compact for each grade-level (K-4). A compact is a written agreement that families, teachers, and students jointly develop to explain how everyone will work together and share responsibility for improved student achievement. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from families, students, and teachers during various events, meetings, and the annual Family-Friendly Survey. The family-school compacts are also discussed in each classroom, are shared with parents during parent-teacher conferences, are posted on our school website, and extra copies are always available upon request. If you would like to provide feedback on the compact any time during the year, please contact Mrs. Koughan, Assistant Principal ([kathy.koughan@pcsstn.com](mailto:kathy.koughan@pcsstn.com)).



# Let's Get Together!

Jere Whitson Elementary School will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement and support a partnership among the school, families, and the community to improve student academic achievement.

## **August 11: Back to School Night/ Annual Title Meeting, PreK-4**

Join us for an evening of fun and learning! We'll share important information about our school's Title I Program. You'll also get to meet your child's teacher and learn about foundational grade-level standards and skills that your child will be working on this year. Community partners will join us for food and fun activities.

## **November 15: STEM Night, PreK-4**

Join us for a night of family STEM fun! Visit lots of STEM stations with your child and enjoy dinner together while you're here.

## **December 9: Literacy and Math Gingerbread Houses, PreK**

Parents and students will incorporate various literacy and math skills as they work together to make a gingerbread house.

## **January 19: Literacy Night, PreK-4**

You'll learn lots of simple ideas to use with your child at home and enjoy dinner while you're here!

## **Family Resources**

Open 7:30-3:00 and located in the cafeteria, our Parent Resource Center has lots of educational materials, games, & books available to borrow for free. Let your child's teacher know if you would like to check out materials to use at home with your child. Computers are also available in the office to explore the PowerSchool Parent Portal and other educational resources.



**Parent A**  
JWES is  
to helping  
parents and family  
members attend the  
events listed in this  
policy. Please  
contact us if you  
need assistance  
with childcare or  
transportation in order  
to participate in any of  
our family engagement  
programs.

Mrs. Koughan,  
Assistant Principal  
kathy.koughan@pcsstn.  
com

# Additional Opportunities for Family & Community Involvement

## **Family Engagement Committee**

Tentative Meeting Dates: August 19, January 13, and April 7 (8:45 a.m.). JWES invites all families to join the Family Engagement Committee to share ideas and ways to involve others to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The committee will meet three times during the school year, but parents and family members can also submit ideas or suggestions at any school activities or meetings, as well as through our annual Family-Friendly Survey. If you'd like to join this committee, please use the form on the following page.

## **Title I Committee**

Tentative Meeting Dates: August 19, January 13, and April 7 (8:15 a.m.). JWES is a school-wide Title I school, which means all students are eligible to receive Title I Services and also benefit from educational purchases made with these funds. If you'd like to be involved in the discussion and decision on how we use these funds to meet our students' needs based on school data, please use the form on the following page to join this committee.

## **School Improvement Plan Committee**

Each year, a committee, including our administrators, teachers, community members, and parents, works together to evaluate the needs of our school and write a plan with action steps to improve our school. This is called our SIP plan, and it also includes information about our school's Title I schoolwide program. If you'd like to be involved in this process or provide feedback, please use the form on the following page.

## **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for September 13 and February 7 (3-6 p.m.). You don't have to wait until these dates to meet with your child's teacher. If you would like to request a meeting outside of these scheduled times, please send a note or email to your child's teacher. You may also leave a message with the school office at 931-526-6575.

## **Encore: Library, Music, PE, and Counseling**

Our Encore teachers sponsor events throughout the year. These include Book Fair, Music Programs, Chorus Concerts, Family Folk Dance Night, Festival of Movement, Field Day, and many others. Notification of these events will be sent home, as well as posted on our school website calendar.

## **Important Links and Resources**

**JWES Website:** [jerewhitsonwildcats.com](http://jerewhitsonwildcats.com)

**JWES Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Jere-Whitson-Elementary-School-1429612724020955>

**Putnam County Schools Website:** [pcsstn.com](http://pcsstn.com)

**TN State Standards:** [www.tn.gov/content/tn/education/instruction/academic-standards](http://www.tn.gov/content/tn/education/instruction/academic-standards)

## Want to Learn More?

If you would like to learn more about joining the Family Engagement Committee, Title I Committee, or School Improvement Plan Committee, please contact Mrs. Koughan at [kathy.koughan@pcsstn.com](mailto:kathy.koughan@pcsstn.com). We also welcome feedback through the form below. It can be returned to Mrs. Koughan, your child's teacher, or the school office.

### Committee Interest Form

- Yes, I am interested and wish to join the following committee:
  - Family Engagement Committee
  - Title I Committee
  - School Improvement Plan Committee
- Please contact me so I can learn more about joining one of these committees.
- Please send me notifications about future meetings and updates.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name and Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you! If you have any suggestions, or if there is any part of this policy that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the office.

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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