

Cotter Jr. Sr. High School  
Cotter, Arkansas

Parent, Family and Community Engagement Plan

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## Overview

The administration, faculty and staff of Cotter Jr. Sr. High School believe that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the school, family and community during the entire time the child attends our school. Our school, parents, guardians and community must work as knowledgeable partners to support the goal of the school to educate all students effectively.

The parents, guardians and community of the students attending Cotter Jr. Sr. High School are diverse in culture, language and needs. They are an integral component of the school's ability to provide for the education success of their children.

Parental engagement is essential to ensuring the improvement of student achievement. Cotter Jr. Sr. High School shall foster and support actual parent, family and community involvement in its educational endeavors by:

- 1.) Involving parents, guardians of students, family and community of students at all grade levels in a variety of roles.
- 2.) Being comprehensive and coordinate
- 3.) Recognizing that communication should be regular, two-way and meaningful.
- 4.) Promoting and supporting responsible parenting.
- 5.) Acknowledging that parents, guardians, family and community play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- 6.) Welcoming parents, guardians, family and community into the school and seeking their support and assistance.
- 7.) Recognizing parents/guardians as full partners in the decisions that affect his or her child and family.
- 8.) Recognizing that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.

9.) Supporting the development, implementation and regular evaluation of the program to engage and involve parents in the decisions and practices of the school district.

The purpose of this Parent, Family and Community Engagement Plan is to describe programs and practices in place at Cotter Jr. Sr. High School that foster and support active parent, family and community engagement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families. Copies of the plan will be provided to families at [www.cotterschools.net](http://www.cotterschools.net) and copies are available upon request by contacting the high school office at 435-6363.

## **PARENT, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

### **“Parent, Family and Community Engagement Meeting” (Open House)**

An open house will be held annually near the beginning of the school year. This is an opportunity for students, parents, guardians, family and the community to visit the school, meet with the principal or the superintendent and talk with the student’s teachers for the upcoming school year. The superintendent or principal will give a report on the state of the school. Teachers will be available to meet with students, parents, guardians, family and community to discuss expectations for the coming school year.

Attendance is highly recommended for parents, guardians, family and community wishing to acquaint themselves with the campus and staff.

### **“Parent, Family and Community Engagement”**

Parent, family and community engagement is encouraged and made possible in many different ways on the high school level. Different types of events will be held periodically throughout the school year in many different ways. The events allow students, parents, teachers, family members and the community to be involved, engaged and active in the educational process.

Meetings include:

- Parent/Teacher Conference
- Financial Aid Parent/Student Night
- FFA Show Team Meeting Night
- Band/Parent Meeting
- Career/Workforce Information Night
- CTE Advisory Board Meeting

### **Information Packs**

To encourage communication with parents, family and community, Cotter High School will prepare “information packs” which will contain:

- A Student Handbook
- The school’s Parent, Family and Community Engagement Plan
- Ways for parents, family members and the community to become involved in the school and the student’s education
- Volunteer survey in which parents, family members and members of the community can volunteer to share their strengths or skills with the students/school
- A school campus map
- Medical Forms to ensure the health of the student
- Student information forms which include updated home information which include parental information, current address and phone numbers.
- Technology use and student objection to publication forms to ensure the student and parents privacy and intent

### **Parent Center**

A Parent Center has been established to provide materials such as magazines, pamphlets and other informational material regarding responsible parenting. Free parenting materials are available on the Parenting Information Shelves located near the high school office.

## **Cotter News**

Cotter School District will post updated school events, updated school calendar and articles about the students and activities and honors to the school district website at [www.cotterschools.net](http://www.cotterschools.net) and on the Cotter School District Facebook page.

## **Welcoming Visitors to School**

Cotter High School welcomes parents, guardians, family members, community members and visitors into the school and seeks their support and assistance. For the safety of the students, we ask that all visitors sign in at the main office in the high school building.

## **Volunteers**

Cotter High School encourages and welcomes volunteers. The school will compile a list of those available to volunteer. This list is compiled from the volunteer surveys completed and returned to school.

## **Ways to be Involved in the School and in Your Child's Education**

- Attend all Parent/Teacher conferences
- Volunteer in the classroom, with activities, or help from home
- Attend "Parent, Family and Community Engagement Meetings"
- Set aside a specific time to review your child's work
- Know your Home AccessCenter logins and check your child's grades
- Schedule daily homework time if needed
- Praise and encourage your child
- Keep in touch with the school
- Check the district website ([www.cotterschools.net](http://www.cotterschools.net)) for upcoming activities

## **Annual Review of Parent, Family and Community Engagement Plan**

This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Plan committee,

