
Lafayette School District



Parent Involvement Guide

July, 2023

MISSION STATEMENT
“BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS”

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Lafayette County School District is to provide all students with educational opportunities within a safe environment conducive to learning which will enable them to become successful students and positive productive citizens.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTIFICATION

The School Board of Lafayette County prohibits discrimination in its education programs, services or activities, or employment conditions or practices on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnic or national origin, genetic information, marital status, pregnancy, qualified disability defined under the ADA, or on the basis of the use of a language other than English, except as provided by law. The School Board also ensures equal access to school facilities for the Boy Scouts of America and other patriotic youth groups.

Any person who believes he or she has experienced any such prohibited discrimination may file a complaint with the District Equity Coordinator by calling (386) 294-4137, or by calling the Title IX Coordinator at 386-294-2889. A written complaint with either coordinator can be mailed to the District Equity Coordinator or the Title IX Coordinator at 363 NE Crawford Street, Mayo, FL 32066.

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT SCHOOLS CONTACT LIST

DISTRICT OFFICE

Superintendent-Robert Edwards 294-1351

LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL

Principal-Stewart Hancock 294-1701

LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal-Lisa Newman 294-2882

LAFAYETTE ADULT EDUCATION

Principal-Paula Ginn 294-1649

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT SCHOOLS

EXPECTATIONS FOR ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY

K – 5th Grade

Students enrolled in public schools throughout the State of Florida should cover the same materials in the same grade level. The Florida Department of Education has created a list of learning goals for students in each grade. This list is called the Florida Standards. Schools ensure their teachers teach these skills in their classrooms. The link to access topics outlined in the Florida Standards that your child should be learning at school between grades K-5 is: [Search Standards | CPALMS.org](http://www.cpalms.org).

Students in grades K – 5 are required to participate in progress monitoring three times per year. Kindergarten, first grade and second grade students use STAR Reading and STAR Math for this progress monitoring. Third through fifth graders participate in the FAST test. In addition, fifth graders take a statewide Science test.

Reading – Our #1 Priority

Every teacher, parent and child knows that reading is a very important skill taught in elementary school. There are six components of reading that children must master in order to learn to read. To be able to help your child in reading, you need to know and understand these components.

1. **Oral Language** provides the foundation for literacy development involving listening and speaking skills.
2. **Phonemic Awareness** is the ability to hear and manipulate the sounds of spoken language. This includes noticing rhyme and the separate, small sounds in words (phonemes).
3. **Phonics** is the understanding of the relationship between written letters and the sounds of spoken language. This knowledge allows the reader to “decode” words by translating the letters into speech sounds.
4. **Fluency** is the ability to read quickly, correctly, and with proper expression. Fluent readers can concentrate on understanding what they read because they don’t have to focus on decoding.
5. **Vocabulary** includes all the words the reader can understand and use. The more words a child knows, the better he or she will understand what is read. Knowing how words relate to each other is a building block that leads to comprehension.
6. **Comprehension** is the ability to understand what one has read. This includes understanding the plot of a story or the information in an article. It also includes things like recognizing the main idea of an article or being able to compare and contrast different characters in a story.

For more information about how parents can promote literacy skills, go to <http://www.justreadflorida.com>

Middle/High School Grade Level Expectations

Students enrolled in public schools throughout the State of Florida should cover the same material in the same grade level. The Florida Department of Education has created a list of learning goals for students in each grade. This list is called the **Florida Standards**. Schools ensure their teachers teach these skills in their classrooms. The link to access topics outlined in the Florida Standards that your child should be learning at school between grades six and twelve is: [Search Standards | CPALMS.org](#).

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT SCHOOLS EXPECTATIONS FOR ASSESSMENT RESULTS

ACCESS FOR ELLs 2.0 – This test is a large-scale language proficiency test for K-12 students participating in the English Language Program (EL). The purpose of this test is to monitor student progress in English Language Proficiency (ELP) on a yearly basis.

ACT – This test provides students with information on their skills in the four major curriculum areas of English, math reading, and science reasoning. The ACT is used in the review of application for admission to many colleges and universities.

ACT NCR (Non-College Reportable)

Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.)

Classis Learning Test (CLT) - (in 2023 legislation)

Deficiency Reports – Reports sent at the middle of the 9 weeks to the homes of students who have a D or an F.

Diagnostic Test and Progress Monitoring – A variety of tests are provided to assist teachers in recognizing the causes of reading difficulties in students.

End of Course Assessments (EOC) – These are tests given at the end of certain courses to determine if the student is proficient.

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.) - Students in grades 3-11 take the English Language Arts F.A.S.T.; students in grades 3-8 take the Mathematics F.A.S.T. (Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment).

Statewide Science – Students in 5th and 8th grade take the Science assessment.

Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA)-Alternate kinds of tests for students with disabilities for whom F.A.S.T. is not appropriate.

I-Ready – This test is given in grade 3 Summer Reading Camp to determine mastery of 3rd grade Reading Standards.

I-Ready – This test is given two times each year to students in Grades K-5. The items tested include comprehension, letter naming, the ability to read phonetically, and reading fluency.

Progress Reports-Reports sent home every three weeks to every student. They are designed to tell parents how their child is doing in each subject and their current grade.

PSAT – This test measures English, math, reading and science reasoning and lets students know if they are prepared to take the SAT.

Report Card - Report cards contain information about the levels students are on, grades, absences and behavior and are issued every nine weeks.

SAT - This test provides students with information on their verbal and math abilities as related to how well they will perform academically in college. The SAT is used in the review of applications for admission to many colleges and universities.

Skyward is an online system for parents to check the grades of their children.

Other Forms of Assessment- Tests which tell certain problems a child might be having with reading are given.

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT SCHOOLS HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

If you have questions or concerns about the qualifications of your child's teacher, you may contact the Personnel Director at the District office for information. You may also access teacher certification at www.fldoe.org. Parents of students in Title I schools have the right to request the qualifications of their child's teacher from the Principal.

PROGRAMS

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE)

This program is for students who are having problems with success in the classroom. If you think your child is not receiving the help they need, you may contact the school guidance counselor for a meeting with the Family Support Team to discuss testing for special services.

ENGLISH LEARNERS (EL)

This is a program for students who do not speak, read, or write English well. Assistance is provided to students so that they are better able to participate in the regular classroom. Every student must fill out a "Home Language Survey". If the answer to any of the three questions on the survey is yes, your child will be given a test to see how well they can speak, listen, read or write English. The school will then decide how your child can best be served to help them.

TITLE I Part A: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

The Title I program is designed to provide supplemental instructional services to students at risk of not achieving proficiency in the state's standards. Funds for the District are generated based on the number of economically disadvantaged students and services are provided to at-risk students. Funds are being used to provide reading tutors for at-risk students at Lafayette Elementary, Lafayette High School, and the Lighthouse Christian Academy.

TITLE I Part C: Education of Migratory Children

Students are eligible for services under this project if their parent(s) have made moves to obtain work in certain agricultural jobs which are temporary in nature. In the Lafayette District these funds are used to supply a Migrant Advocate who assists eligible students and their families by making frequent contacts between the school and the home; assisting families in accessing services within the school system and within the community which will help the child's academic achievement; and by providing materials and supplies necessary for school success. Parent meetings are used to give information on parenting skills and to seek parent input on how to serve students better.

TITLE II Part A: Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund

This project is designed to provide professional development for teachers. This year these activities include several trainings in reading; in-service activities in the Florida Standards for language arts, writing, math and social studies; training on parent involvement; technology in-service; End of Course Assessment training; principal observation training; school safety and classroom management; RtI (Response to Intervention); and data analysis. Input from teachers, parents, administrators and student data help to determine the activities selected each year.

TITLE IV Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

Newly authorized under subpart 1 of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program is intended to help meet these goals by increasing the capacity of State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), schools and local communities to:

1. Provide students with access to a well-rounded education,
2. Improve safe and healthy school conditions for student learning, and
3. Improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. (ESEA section 4101).

TITLE V Part B, Subpart 2: Rural & Low Income Schools Program

The Title VI project funds may be used for a variety of purposes to improve instruction in the school district. Lafayette District chooses to use its funds to pay a portion of the Director of Teaching & Learning Services salary in order to oversee and administrate federal projects and coordinate professional development for teachers and staff, and to provide services to at-risk population.

TITLE IX Part C: Education of Homeless Children & Youth Project

The purpose of these funds is to assist children whose education may be impacted as a result of their living situation. Students residing in a temporary shelter, living in a mobile camper or car, living in substandard housing or living doubled up with another family out of economic necessity are entitled to the services of the Homeless Facilitator. This person is charged with ensuring eligible children have immediate access to school, even if they do not have all the required items; ensuring their schooling is not interrupted, even if they make a move; assisting students to access services needed within the school system and the community; and providing items necessary for school success. Training is provided for parents of children served by this project and the parents are also asked how to improve the project each year.

PLANS

Individual Education Plan-An IEP is a written statement for each child with a disability that is developed, reviewed each year and revised to address the student's individual educational needs.

Student Progression Plan - A plan provided to every student each year which explains the way a student progresses through school, graduation requirements, retention for students who do not master skills for a grade level and special assignment procedures. The purpose is to ensure that each student in the Lafayette District Schools is placed in an instructional program in which the student can achieve academically and develop emotionally, socially and physically. Instead of writing a plan for each student, the district chooses to do school wide progress monitoring.

English Learner Plan - A plan designed for students to describe the services provided to students whose home language is not English and how those services should be carried out. In addition, for each student who is in the ELL program, there is an individual student ELL Plan which contains information about the services for that student and the results of the ELL committee meeting to plan those services and document the provided services.

504 Plan – A Section 504 Plan describes the accommodations that the school will provide to support the student's education.

Parent Engagement plan – Under Title I Part A, participating schools are required to develop a written plan to describe various opportunities for involvement in the school system.

Bullying Intervention Plan – School districts are required by law to develop a policy/plan to provide awareness, intervention training, and instructional strategies on prevention, including violence prevention, to each staff, parent, and student in the District and to direct follow up when incidents are reported and/or occur.

Professional Development Plan – School districts are required to develop a professional development plan that is aligned with state standards in order to increase student achievement, enhance classroom instructional strategies that promote rigor and relevance throughout the curriculum, and prepare students for continuing education and the workforce.

Personalized Academic and Career Plan – School districts are required to create a personalized academic and career plan using Florida's online career planning and work-based learning coordination system. This plan created for each student must include instruction on how to access and update the plan, and encourage each student to access and update the plan annually. The personalized plan must inform students of high school graduation requirements and different diploma designations available, as well as Bright Futures scholarships requirements, options to earn college credit in high school, and career education courses. The plan must also inform students about the career and technical education pathway to a standard high school diploma, as well as work-based learning opportunities.

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT SCHOOLS SERVICES

Family Literacy-Classes for adults are available on Monday and Tuesday nights from 4:00 to 9:00 pm.

Tutorial Services-Tutoring is offered to Grades K-12 in the area of reading during the school day.

Student Counseling Services-At both Lafayette Elementary and High School, students can receive counseling individually, or in a group setting, on an as needed basis. Counseling services are provided by the district's Licensed Mental Health Counselor, (LMHC) or Meridian Behavioral Health Care (independent of the school system), on the school campuses to provide mental health counseling to students referred by himself or herself, by the parent or by the teacher.

Academic Advisement-Academic Advisement is available from the Guidance Counselor at Lafayette High School. At Lafayette High School, students receive academic advisement, scholarship assistance, information about colleges and testing.

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT SCHOOLS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT

HOW CAN I BE ON AN ADVISORY COUNCIL?

Teachers elect teacher members at a faculty meeting, parents elect their members at the PTO meeting, and business leaders are solicited through an advertisement in the newspaper.

HOW CAN I BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

Volunteers are always welcome in the classrooms for tutoring, making bulletin boards, listening to students read, chaperoning a field trip, reading to students, making instructional materials, discussing career choices, copying and other duties. You may pick up an application in the school office, complete it and contact the district office for information to get a Criminal Records Check completed.

WHAT CLASSES DO YOU HAVE THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET MY GED?

Classes are available through the Adult Evening Program on Monday and Tuesday nights from 4:00 to 9:00 pm.

WHAT ARE PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES?

Teachers may request a conference with you or you may request a conference with them. You may request a conference by writing the teacher a note or calling the main office for an appointment during the teacher's planning time.

WHAT IS PARENT ENGAGEMENT NIGHT?

Once each month, the Lafayette Elementary School Parent Engagement Night occurs with different topics for parents and students being offered.

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT SCHOOLS CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITES FOR STUDENTS

DUAL-ENROLLMENT - Students in secondary grades can receive college credit through various post-secondary institutions in our area. Some classes are taught on campus at Lafayette High School, online, or students may commute.

FLORIDA VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES - The Florida Virtual School is to provide students with on-line and distance learning education. It is for students who need a broader and faster access to meet their educational goals. It is monitored by the Department of Education.

GIFTED - Placement in the gifted program is guided by the State of Florida and dependent on your child's IQ scores on an accepted test. The gifted teacher plans enrichment activities and consults with the regular education teachers to ensure that students are being challenged.

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS – The District has industry certifications for post-secondary credits. Students can earn Industry Certifications on our campus or through post-secondary institutions in our area. Students are afforded the opportunity to earn the following certifications in CTE programs: Agriculture, Food Science, Culinary, Technology, and Nursing and many different career Dual Enrollment programs.

EDUCATIONAL CHOICES

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The private school in Lafayette County is Lighthouse Christian Academy located on Highway 51 North.

HOME EDUCATION

Home education is available for parents who prefer to teach their children at home. Packets may be obtained at the high school guidance office; contact the Home Education Coordinator, Becky Sharpe (386-294-1417).

LAFAYETTE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Students in grades K-12 may enroll in a full-time program where students are provided coursework online. The District contracts with an online program to provide these services.

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT SCHOOLS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Accommodations are one of the keys to planning effective educational programs for students with a disability. Many students with a disability need only small changes to the way they are instructed and tested to be able to participate and be successful in regular classes. Accommodations involve a wide range of techniques and support systems that help students with a disability work around any limitations that result from their disability.

Classroom Accommodations may be provided in five general areas:

- Teaching methods or materials
- Assignments or tests
- Learning Environments
- Time Demands and Schedules
- Assistive Technology

Assessment accommodations may be provided in five general areas:

- Presentation
- Responding
- Scheduling
- Setting
- Assistive Technology

WHAT DOES THIRD GRADE RETENTION MEAN?

The Florida Statutes do not allow for social promotion and requires school districts to set standards that students must meet to be promoted to the next grade. The law's main focus is on students who are in the third grade who score below Level 2 on the F.A.S.T. PM 3. There are six ways these children can be promoted:

1. Limited English proficient students with less than two years in an ESOL program;
2. Students with disabilities whose IEP indicates participation in F.A.S.T. is not appropriate;
3. Students who demonstrate acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the State Board of Education;
4. Students who demonstrate proficiency in Florida Standards in reading through student portfolios;
5. Students with disabilities who participate in F.A.S.T., still demonstrate deficiency in reading after more than two years of intensive remediation, and were previously retained in kindergarten first, second or third grade;
6. Students who still demonstrate deficiency in reading after two or more years of intensive remediation and were previously retained in kindergarten, first, second, or third grade for a total of two years.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Before attending school in Florida (kindergarten through 12th grade), each child must provide a *Florida Certification of Immunization* (DH680 Form), documenting the following vaccinations:

Public/Non-Public Schools Kindergarten through 12th Grade:	Seventh Grade Requirements:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four or five doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP) vaccine± 	In addition to kindergarten through 12 th grade requirements, students entering or attending seventh need the following vaccinations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three doses of hepatitis B (Hep B) vaccine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One dose of tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine in grades seven through twelve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three, four, or five doses of polio (IPV) vaccine* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated DH 680 Form to include Tdap, must be obtained for submission to the school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two doses of varicella vaccine 	

± The fifth dose of vaccine is not necessary if the fourth dose was administered at age 4 years or older.

*If four or more doses are administered before age 4 years, an additional dose should be administered at age 4 through 6 years and at least six months after the previous dose. A fourth dose is not necessary if the third dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least six months after the previous dose.

†Varicella vaccine is not required if varicella disease is documented by the health care provider.

For more information, call 877-888-7468 or visit www.immunizeflorida.org.