



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Julie Johnson Thompson
Office: 683-4786 Cell: (501) 580-6508
Email: julie.thompson@arkansas.gov

PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY IS NOVEMBER 16

November 16 has been set aside as Parent Involvement in Education Day, and the Arkansas Department of Education has published a brochure promoting parent involvement in their children's schools to coincide with the occasion. A PDF version of "A Parent's Guide to Helping Your Child Excel" is available on the Department's Web site, [ArkansasEd.org](http://arkansased.org), at http://arkansased.org/communications/pdf/parents_guide_brochure_06.pdf.

"Common sense tells us that children achieve so much more academically when their parents are involved in their educations, and research tells us what kind of involvement makes a difference," said Dee Cox, director of special programs with the Arkansas Department of Education. "A parent doesn't have to be volunteering in the classroom every day or even once a week to help their child achieve. Rather, when parents ask about their children's homework and make the effort to keep up with and show an interest in what their children are learning in school – those ways of being involved have a huge impact on how a child feels about and performs in school."

Schools all across the state work to involve parents in the educational process, and many have special activities planned for Parent Involvement Day, Cox said. For instance, Cabot School District will be holding Parent/Student Literacy Nights, Dumas schools have a Home Based Literacy Workshop, and Belwood Elementary in North Little Rock School District will hold the last of its Families Building Better Readers Workshops.

Arkansas schools also regularly host events such as math nights and literacy nights to update parents about their children's curriculum, plan more social occasions such as fall festivals and holiday programs to involve the entire family and send home regular newsletters to keep parents informed of school news, issues and events.

"Schools in the state are doing a great job of reaching out to parents," Cox said. "I hope through our brochure we are able to help parents understand how important it is for them to be a vital part of their child's education both at home, and, as often as possible, in the school building as well."

--ADE--

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.