

### A3: Needs Assessment Plan – 55 pts.

**3.1** Sources of data (is data available to collect from existing sources – agency records, social indicators, etc? Will you need to customize research – focus group, community forum, survey, etc.?) (10 pts.)

The data from last year's family involvement at events and activities will serve as a benchmark to indicate if there is a correlation between our program and the level of family involvement this year at Hardy Elementary. According to Robin Bambrey, the principal of Hardy Elementary School, the information below indicates parental involvement in activities and events held during the 2018-19 school year:

- 50 families attended a school-wide parent night
- 33 families attended the school-wide Literacy night
- Classrooms averaged five families at parent-teacher conferences with class sizes ranging from 17-21 students each
- Staff attempted to form a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and three families joined. This school year currently has nine families signed up as members of the PTA.

(R. Bambrey, personal communication, September 2, 2019)

Article 4, Section 8 of the Hamilton County PTA Council bylaws require a new local PTA unit to have a minimum of eight members and that the membership must maintain at least 20 members in subsequent years (Hamilton County Council of PTAs, 2019). In order for Hardy Elementary to maintain a local PTA unit under Hamilton County's PTA next year, it will be required to increase membership from nine to 20.

While there are some templates on the internet, a customized survey will be used to better respond to the needs of the families and school staff at Hardy Elementary. An existing survey found on the Bentonville Arkansas District website will be used as a starting point and tweak it to assess the current environment, communication and opportunities for parental involvement at Hardy Elementary. Ideas for future planning will also be requested. Additionally, families and faculty will have an opportunity to indicate if they would like to speak with a member of the research team to discuss family involvement at Hardy Elementary further. By seeking these additional opportunities for interviews, it is expected that support will be gained by empowering families and staff with

	<p>inclusion in the planning process, as well as identifying potential leaders of the program. The survey will be made available to the families and staff at Hardy Elementary in several ways, including a printed copy sent home with students, as well as an electronic survey that is advertised on the school's website, facebook page, posters placed in the front office and signs posted outside during carline. The target population will then be made up of the families and staff members who submitted their responses to the surveys.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Resources</p> <p>Bentonville Public Schools. (2019). Parent involvement survey. Retrieved from <a href="https://bentonvillek12.org/web/support/parent_survey.asp">https://bentonvillek12.org/web/support/parent_survey.asp</a></p> <p>Hamilton County PTA. (2019). Hamilton County PTA council bylaws. Nashville:Author.</p>
<p><b>3.2 Deleted per Dr. Racovita</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>
<p><b>3.3 Statement of purpose (SoP):</b> (It presents what the research study/needs assessment attempts to find: It should start with “The purpose of this study is...” or</p>	<p>The purpose of this needs assessment is to find out which activities and events should be incorporated into the family involvement and engagement program. Careful attention will be given to ensuring that the program activities do not pose significant barriers which would prevent family involvement, including financial obligation, scheduling, or a need for child care. Collaboration with the families on planning the activities and events will likely increase the level of involvement by the families (Larson, 2017). For example, when choosing the topic and guest speaker for a particular theme night, a needs assessment will be used to provide insight and guidance in finding one that is of interest and benefit to the families. An important goal of the planning process is to allow families to see the value of their involvement and engagement in their child's education. The ultimate goal of gaining family involvement in school activities is to develop a positive relationship between families and school staff. Research has demonstrated that a positive relationship and increased involvement by families helps to increase academic achievement of students at the school (Rogers, Maxwell, &amp; Robinson, 2018).</p> <p>Larson, J. (2017). Engagement vs. involvement: Building an inclusive school community. Hive Digital Minds. Retrieved from <a href="https://hivedm.com/engagement-vs-involvement-building-an-inclusive-school-community/">https://hivedm.com/engagement-vs-involvement-building-an-inclusive-school-community/</a></p>

similar) (5 pts.)	<p>Rogers, K., Maxwell, D., &amp; Robinson, S. (2018). Influences of Academic Success among Low-Income Minority Students: A Qualitative Interpretive Meta-synthesis of Student, Educator, and Parent Experiences.(Report). <i>School Social Work Journal</i>, 43(1), 38–59. Retrieved from <a href="https://go-gale-com.ezproxy.southern.edu/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA582635274&amp;v=2.1&amp;u=tel_a_sau&amp;it=r&amp;p=AONE&amp;sw=w">https://go-gale-com.ezproxy.southern.edu/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA582635274&amp;v=2.1&amp;u=tel_a_sau&amp;it=r&amp;p=AONE&amp;sw=w</a></p>
<p><b>3.4</b> Research question/s (List the research question/s. The questions should align with the problem and the statement of purpose. Be very specific here. The statement should be in the form of a question, ending with a question mark) (8 pts.)</p>	<p>What activities and events, including the implementation methods of such activities and events, would cause an increase in involvement and engagement by families of students at Hardy Elementary School for the 2019-2020 school year?</p>

<b>3.5</b> Identify the Null and Alternate hypotheses (8 pts.)	<p><b>H<sub>0</sub>:</b> There is no relationship between the design and implementation of family activities and events at Hardy Elementary and the amount of family involvement in those activities</p> <p><b>H<sub>1</sub>:</b> There is a relationship between the design and implementation of family activities and events at Hardy Elementary and the amount of family involvement in those activities.</p>
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**3.6** Identify the variables (quantitative) or the concepts (qualitative) to be studied (list them) (8 pts.)

**Research Recap:**

**Independent variable/s (IV):** The activities and events that are part of the family involvement and engagement program including:

- Themed nights once a month (food and activity included for free)
- Professional speakers to present material at each event
- Take-home family activities

**Dependent Variable/s (DV):** The level of participation of families in the activities and events that are part of the family involvement and engagement program including:

- Parent/Teacher conferences
- Literacy and Math nights
- Monthly Themed nights
- Completion of take-home activities
- Chaperones for field trips
- Volunteers at individual class events (parties, special projects, etc).

**Controlled variable/s (CV):** Variables that can be controlled by the study:

- Welcoming atmosphere of school
- Grade level of student

**Extraneous Variable/s (EV):** Variables outside of the study's control including:

- family schedules
- access to transportation
- number of children in a family unit
- parent/guardian's level of education
- low socioeconomic status

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disabilities</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Themes and Categories:</u></b></p> <p>The <b>barriers</b> that prevent families from becoming involved in school activities and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Scheduling conflicts</li> <li>• Other children</li> <li>• Education Level of Family Members</li> </ul> <p>The <b>perceptions</b> held that influence involvement in school activities and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural norms</li> <li>• School atmosphere</li> <li>• Educator biases</li> </ul> <p>The <b>values</b> held by caregivers that influence involvement in school activities and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of education</li> <li>• Of family involvement</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.7</b> Methodological approach (Choose the specific approach you believe is</p>	<p><u>  x  </u> <b><i>Qualitative</i></b> (e.g.: what are the needs...; how do...; why do..., etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Drawbacks to this are that it is difficult to generalize responses for the population.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><u>  x  </u> <b><i>Quantitative</i></b> (e.g. what is the relationship...; does IV predict DV...; what is the difference between groups...; etc.)</p> <p><u>  x  </u> <b><i>Mixed Methods utilizing survey and interviews</i></b></p>

appropriate for this study.) (1 pt.)	
<b>3.8</b> Rationale for methodology (Write a 1-2 sentence rationale describing how your design is best suited to answering your research questions.) (5 pts.)	A mixed methods approach will be used to determine the activities and events that will generate increased involvement by the families of students at Hardy Elementary School. Quantitative data, such as the number of times a family member has been to the school, attended a parent-teacher conference, received a phone call from a teacher and questions that seek to identify the reasons for not attending school events will be helpful to determine the existing culture of family involvement at Hardy Elementary. But it will require qualitative data, such as ideas for future activities, further explanation of the questions, and especially an opportunity to demonstrate the desire and need for involvement by the families to improve family engagement at Hardy Elementary.