

EARLY EDUCATION FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

College Station ISD Early Education Services believes that the education of all students should be a partnership between the school and the parent community. Both the District and the parent community play an essential role in the success of all students. CSISD Early Education Services will provide the following supports to encourage the school/family partnership to address the specific needs of early learners:

1. Facilitate family to family support

CSISD Early Education will create safe and respectful environments where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups, and ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families such as training on family leadership.

At the start of every school year, teachers will welcome families through home visits and campus parent orientations. Throughout the year, families will be offered opportunities to engage with their child in classroom learning and attend community field trips.

Strategies:

- Parent Orientations on elementary campuses with opportunities for former parents to participate
- The addition of a Family Engagement Specialist
- Six Family Advocates serving all 10 elementary campuses
- Parent Classes open to all Head Start and Pre-K families in the district focused on parent-child interaction and learning strategies for positive outcomes
- Parent engagement provided monthly to families that include a variety of formats, such as large group, play-based, and outdoor events.
- Program holds special family events for like-groups to collaborate and build relationships
- Families have the opportunity to establish School Readiness Commitments and family goals
- Additional training opportunities for families in response to the beginning of year feedback survey and student scores

2. Establish a network of community resources

CSISD Early Education will build partnerships with community agencies and organizations to create and facilitate referrals based on family interests and needs; communicate short- and long-term program goals to stakeholders; and identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language.

Strategies Include:

- Link families with support systems, peer to peer groups, translators, and various resources depending on family needs
- Utilizing Family Advocates as a Liaison for connecting families with available resources
- Partnerships with local library to ensure families access to library cards and learning materials
- Ensuring that families are aware of services and know about their rights under federal and state laws
- Disseminate community resources through written material and through Schoology
- Families participating in the home visit program will also receive support and opportunities for parent/community engagement

3. Increase family participation in decision making

CSISD Early Education, in collaboration with early childhood families, will develop and support the Head Start Policy Council to: 1) identify goals within the annual program improvement plan targeting family engagement; 2) develop and support leadership skills for family members and providing opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families; 3) engage families in cultivating the expectation that information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication; 4) provide each family with an opportunity to review and provide input on program practices, policies, communications, and events in order to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of families.

Strategies Include:

- Provide participation opportunity in Head Start Policy Council
- Engagement opportunities with Campus Parent Committee
- Provide a beginning of year feedback opportunity through a survey for families to share needs and interests
- Provide follow up feedback opportunity through an end of year survey on family engagement opportunities and the Family Engagement Plan

- Opportunities for families to serve as advocates and leaders on various campus and district committees and groups to further learning

4. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning

CSISD Early Education will provide family engagement opportunities that support parenting skills and activities that support ongoing achievement through educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership. Early Education will equip families with resources and skills to support their children through the transition to school and provide home learning activities for families to engage in with children through information presented in newsletters, online technology, parent/family-teacher conferences, or other school events.

Strategies:

- Approach parents as equal partners in their child's education while emphasizing parents as the child's first teacher
- Home visit to all Head Start and Pre-K families to encourage developmentally appropriate activities in the home
- Monthly classroom experiences provides literacy, math, and science activities for families to duplicate at home
- Family Advocates teach how to utilize learning materials in the home
- Parent Education on Social-Emotional Development including Conscious Discipline materials
- Ready Rosie texting subscription for all families
- Elementary campuses host night for Prekindergarten to Kindergarten transition support

5. Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks

CSISD Early Education will provide essential professional development for educators in understanding that family engagement is the responsibility of all staff, including training on communicating with families in crisis; and develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies.

Strategies:

- Ongoing professional development for all early childhood staff in the area(s) of cultural responsiveness and how to connect with families
- Additional professional development on trauma informed practices
- Develop staff skills to support families in meeting their goals
- Professional development on adult learning principles

6. Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement

CSISD Early Education will conduct goal-oriented home visits to identify strengths, interests, and needs; develop data collection systems to monitor family engagement; use data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and School Readiness Goals and to promote continuous family engagement.

Strategies:

- Early Education staff will encourage families to participate in School Readiness commitments
- Data collected throughout the year will monitor the process and goal attainment of the family engagement program
- Participation data will be collected at family engagement events
- Parent surveys and other face to face opportunities will provide parents an opportunity to provide feedback
- Ensuring that parents' voices are heard and acknowledged during the self assessment planning process