

Ballinger ISD

High-Quality Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan

2016-17

Definitions of Family and Family Engagement

Family: Family includes adults and children significant in the child's life who support the early learning and development of the child.

Family Engagement: Family engagement is the mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities; which builds relationships to support student learning and achievement and to support family well-being, family-student relationship and on-going learning and development of children, families, and educators. Family engagement is fully integrated in the child's educational experience and supports the whole child. It is culturally and linguistically responsive and is continuous through a child's life.

The Family Engagement Plan Shall

1. Facilitate family-to-family support.
 - a. Creating a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals.
2. Establish a network of community resources.
 - a. Leveraging of community resources such as the Ballinger Ministerial Alliance, Community Pantry, and the local Food Stamp office
 - b. The school nurse and campus counselor will identify support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers, as needed.
 - c. Communicating short and long-term program goals to all stakeholders.
3. Increase family participation in decision-making.
 - a. Develop, adopt and implement identified goals within the annual campus improvement plan targeting family engagement.
 - b. Develop, in collaboration with families, clearly defined goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress.
4. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning.
 - a. Provide complimentary home learning activities for families to engage in at home with their children through information presented in newsletters, online technology, social media, parent/family-teacher conferences, or other school related events.
 - b. Equipping families with resources and skills to support their children through the transition to school and offering opportunities for families and children visit school in advance of the prekindergarten school year.

5. Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks.
 - a. Provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis.
 - b. Promoting and developing family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff.
 - c. Develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant and culturally responsive family engagement strategies.
6. Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement.
 - a. Ensure a cyclical process to ensure evaluation results are used for continuous improvement and adjustment
 - b. Ensure teachers play a role in the family engagement evaluation process.