



Pre-K Community and Family Engagement Plan

Our Vision:

All children complete their PreK-12 education ready for success in college and/or careers, with the freedom to choose the most fulfilling life path. As adults, they will be empowered by gratitude to help the next generation of learners.

Our Mission:

Neighborhood Schools' mission is to guide children from under-served communities to love learning and develop the academic skills and virtues to succeed in life and transform their communities.

Family:

Family includes adults (home and school) and children significant in the child's life who support the early learning and development of the child.

Family engagement is defined by:

"The mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement and to support family well-being and the continuous learning and development of children, families, and educators. Family engagement is fully integrated in the child's educational experience and supports the whole child and is both culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate." Texas Administrative Code §102.1003

Neighborhood Schools in collaboration with parents in the community, will create an annual family engagement plan that reflects practices and community involvement along with special needs of early learners.

1) Facilitate a family network.

- a) *Create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups;*
- b) *Invite former program participants, including families and community volunteers, to share their education and career experiences with current families;*
- c) *Ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families.*

- Open House
- Title 1 Campus Meetings (Fall & Spring)
- Family Literacy Night
- Family Math Night
- Dual Language Family Nights
- Pre-K Promotion Ceremony
- Career Day
- Volunteer and training opportunities with networking time
- Contact with Community and Family Engagement Specialist (CFES) to connect new families.

- Constant communication via ProCare

2) Establish a network of community resources.

- Build strategic partnerships;*
- Leverage community resources;*
- Monitor and evaluate policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways;*
- Establish and maintain partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies;*
- Identify support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers;*
- Partner with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings;*
- Provide and facilitate referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs;*
- Communicate short- and long-term program goals to all stakeholders;*
- Identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language.*

- Subsidy and various support program application support
- Case Management by Community and Family Engagement Specialist (CFES)
- Support from Neighborhood Community Initiatives Community Partnership Manager
- Rich partnerships with over 20 resource partners: [Partnerships](#)
- Partners participate in family-focused events
- Connect families with community-based enrichment activities

3) Increase family participation in decision-making.

- Develop and support a family advisory council;*
- Develop, adopt, and implement identified goals within the annual campus improvement plan targeting family engagement;*
- Develop and support leadership skills for family members and provide opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families;*
- Collaborate with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers;*
- Engage families in shaping program activities and cultivate the expectation that information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication;*
- Develop, in collaboration with families, clearly defined goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress;*
- 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;*
- Using appropriate tools such as surveys or focus groups to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan.*

- Student Progress Meetings
- Campus Parent Compact
- Campus/District Event Evaluations
- Campus/District Survey
- Campus/District Improvement Committee
- Include all families in the intake process via the Opportunity Database
- Ensure Procure is updated with lessons, menus and events weekly
- Quarterly parent feedback surveys

4) Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning.

- Design or implement existing home educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership;*
- Provide families with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities;*
- Equip families with resources and skills to support their children through the transition to school and offering opportunities for families and children to visit the school in advance of the prekindergarten school year;*
- Provide complementary home learning activities for families to engage in at home with children through information presented in newsletters, online technology, social media, parent/family-teacher conferences, or other school- or center-related events;*
- Provide families with information, best practices, and training related to age-appropriate developmental expectations;*

- f) *Emphasize benefits of positive family practices such as attachment and nurturing that complement the stages of children's development;*
- g) *Collaborate with families to appropriately respond to children's behavior in a non-punitive, positive, and supportive way;*
- h) *Encourage families to reflect on family experiences and practices in helping children;*
- i) *Assist families to implement best practices that will help achieve the goals and objectives identified to meet the needs of the child and family.*

- Parent Online Access to CLI Engage Family Resources
- Literacy & Math Nights
- Full-day Pre-kindergarten for eligible families
- Social Media -- Campus/District websites, Facebook, ParentSquare, Google Classroom, Skyward
- Pre-K Roundup
- Campus Handbook
- Social Emotional Learning Parent Portal

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) *Promote and develop 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.*

- CIRCLE Assessment training for teachers
- Children's Literacy Development training for engaging families
- Responsive Education Solutions Discipline Policy
- Ensure each staff member has completed Pre-service training through Texas A&M
- Four PD days strategically scheduled throughout school year for ongoing learning
- Training in grading and quality of learning
- Maintain or achieve a TRS 4-Star rating
- Family engagement in the Special Education referral process

6) Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluation for continuous improvement.

- a) *Conduct goal-oriented home visits to identify strengths, interests, and needs;*
- b) *Develop data collection systems to monitor family engagement and focus on engagement of families from specific populations to narrow the achievement gap;*
- c) *Use data alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals to promote continuous family engagement;*
- d) *Ensure an evaluation plan is an initial component that guides action;*
- e) *Use cyclical process to ensure evaluation results are used for continuous improvement and adjustment;*
- f) *Ensure teachers play a role in the family engagement process.*

- Campus/District Parent Survey
- Community and Family Engagement Specialist (CFES) data collection and review
- TEA Pre-K Program Evaluation
- Family surveys and other communication via ProCare
- Title I Part A Parent Engagement Survey/Log/Documentation
- Exit interviews with each student withdrawal