

Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan



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The Midlothian Independent School District's Prekindergarten/Early Childhood Program will create a partnership between our families, schools and community for the successful transition into kindergarten. We believe "Together is Better" is the most effective way to promote a culture of learning that is child-centered and family driven.

Family engagement is defined as *"The mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement, 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 is both culturally and linguistically appropriate."* Texas Administrative Code §102.1003

It has long been recognized by both researchers and practitioners that family engagement play a non-negotiable role in education. Rider 78, passed by the 85th Legislature, 2017, requires a school district or charter school to develop and implement a **Family Engagement Plan** to assist the district in achieving and maintaining high levels of family involvement and positive family attitudes toward education. The local **Family Engagement Plan** shall be based on the family engagement strategies established by Texas Education Agency in collaboration with other state agencies.

The Midlothian ISD Prekindergarten program embraces the individuality and uniqueness of families, and promotes a culture of learning that is child centered and age appropriate. Building partnerships between educators and families, by way of the **Family Engagement Plan**, ensures that every learner is encouraged, supported, and challenged to achieve the highest levels of knowledge, skills, and character.

The six Midlothian ISD **Family Engagement Plan** strategies are based on empirical research and are proven to demonstrate positive short-term and long-term outcomes for early childhood education. This plan expresses what is contained in the Commissioner's Rule (102.1003(f)) in addition to specific examples of how each of the family engagement strategies will be accomplished in our high quality PK program. The following articulates strategies within each of the six domains.

Six Components of the Pre-K Family Engagement Plan	Evidence of Pre-K Family Engagement in MISD
<p>1. Facilitate Family-to-Family Support</p>	<p>Prekindergarten staff will provide parents with opportunities to participate in district and campus initiatives such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kindergarten Round Up ● Pre-kindergarten Parent Camp night ● Join Parent Teacher Association ● “Meet the Teacher” night, facilitating family to family interactions, networking, and community/school support ● Campus Family Nights ● Provide parents the opportunity to Participate on the Campus Improvement Plan Committee ● Classroom volunteering ● MISD Parent Teacher Organization ● Campus Family Nights ● District Parent Education Nights- Parent U- assisting parents with understanding district programs and initiatives ● PK/PPCD parent/family training that encourages families to share experiences, community resources, and individual support ● District-Wide Education Improvement Committee (DEIC) and campus advisory committees provide opportunities for parents to interact and network with other parents interested in supporting public education in the Midlothian community
<p>2. Establish a Network of Community Resources</p>	<p>MISD builds strategic partnerships by leveraging community resources that will benefit Prekindergarten families as needed; establishing and maintaining partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies; identifying support from various agencies, and identifying partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language. Some resources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partnership with local Lion’s Club to provide vision checks for PK learners and other vision resources as needed, with referral from school nurse ● Use of translators for families at events,

	<p>meetings, newsletters, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to parent education classes through Navarro College ● Adult ESL class at First Baptist Church ● Midlothian Book Exchange- mini library at the parks around town ● Midlothian ISD and Meadows Public Library story time and summer activities ● District Health & Wellness Information ● Child Nutrition Information ● Immunization Information
<p>3. Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making</p>	<p>Pre-K families will be invited to participate and serve on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Campus & District Level Improvement Committees ● Family visitation and volunteering ● Create and maintain an environment that values and affirms parent leadership. ● Regularly held parent/teacher conferences ● Parent Survey
<p>4. Equipping Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning</p>	<p>Examples of how MISD equips families with tools to enhance and extend learning include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MISD offers a high-quality full day PK program to eligible learners, enhancing and extending socialization and facilitating parent involvement for Pre-K families ● Teacher/parent conferences held throughout the school year and collaborating with them in setting goals for their children while in the PK program ● Encouraging family members to volunteer in the classroom, using the time to foster enhanced communication ● Sharing technology tips/resources that are family-friendly to enhance parents' knowledge on child development (CLI Engage, Starfall.com., ABC Mouse, Epic Books for Kids, 123 Tracing, ABCYa, Teach Your Monster to Read

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PK district webpage that shares information supportive of enhancing and extending learning for children participating in the program ● Parents are encouraged to access class/campus/district information from the Parent Portal on the MISD website and social media
<p>5. Develop Staff Skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children’s learning benchmarks using strategies such as</p>	<p>Midlothian believes in a continuous improvement philosophy. We provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, promoting and developing family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all those involved in the child’s life.</p> <p>educators and staff; and developing staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies. Strategies in Action include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All teachers will have at least 30 hours of training in the areas addressed in the PreKindergarten guidelines achieved through training opportunities from Region 10, Early Childhood Annual Conferences and ongoing PD offerings. ● Teachers will have professional development in understanding communication and engagement with families; including training on communicating with families in crisis ● Promote family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning ● dTrain educators about the resources that are available in the community that support families’ interests and needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Educators will participate in professional learning that focuses on strength-based approach to family engagement ● Continuation of educator awareness of how culture may influence perspective in child-rearing, communication styles, caregiving, discipline, etc. ● Implementation of the MISD Classroom Management Plan ● Utilization of resources available in CLI Engage and Circle Progress Monitoring platforms ● Continuing membership in the Region 10 Early Childhood Coop as a means of professional learning, program effectiveness, and practices associated with HQPK implementation ● Child Find training for early childhood educators
<p>6. Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Using Results for Continuous Improvement</p>	<p>Self-assessment will be a cornerstone to the overall process of evaluating for program effectiveness and to support future improvements. Trainings, workshops, meetings, and family engagement activities are followed with an evaluation, which provides families the opportunity to express their views and provide feedback. Campus and district will use some of the following tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use survey and feedback results to provide valuable information on preferences of program components and parents' perception of program effectiveness. Survey results serve to improve program design and to increase parent outreach and involvement. ● MISD will conduct an annual EOY program evaluation and review of the results will support improvement

	<p>efforts for the new school year considering all areas of the Family Engagement Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child-centered goals setting collaborations with parents will continue at the BOY. Progress monitoring and reporting will occur at the BOY, MOY, and EOY • Survey parents at least annually on the effectiveness of the prekindergarten experience for their child and their family • Utilize the “High Quality Pre-Kindergarten Self-Assessment” instrument created by the TEA to include results indicating strengths, opportunities to grow, and next steps for continuous improvement. • Participation in family involvement activities will be documented and monitored at the campus/district levels. Data will be collected to ensure the specific needs of families are being addressed through surveys.
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