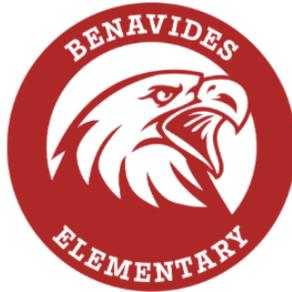




# **Benavides ISD Independent School District**

## **Family Engagement Plan**

### **Benavides Elementary**



At Benavides ISD, we value our families, and we understand the importance of involving our families in the education of our students. This plan outlines strategies to support family-to-family engagement, to provide a network of community resources, to involve families in the decision-making process, to equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning, to develop staff to support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks, and to evaluate and improve on the family engagement strategies used each year.

Benavides ISD is committed to engaging parents in meaningful educational experiences with their children. Benavides ISD will solicit informal input from parents throughout the school year. Parents can formally provide input by way of parent surveys and Title I year-end meetings each year during the spring.

## **Family-to-family support**

- ★ BISD has created a Facebook page to encourage positive communication from one parent to another.
- ★ BISD will discuss the family engagement plan and the importance of family-to-family support to parents at an annual meeting.
- ★ Parents will be encouraged to make connections with each other through classroom events.
- ★ BISD will host parent socials with a speaker (10-15 min), but then time to work in small groups followed by open conversation (Blocks Night) (Reading Night - Guest author).
- ★ BISD will offer an ongoing parent support group grounded in the Conscious Discipline principles.

### **Network of Community Resources**

- ★ BISD will provide a handout that will include a list of local resources with url addresses and phone numbers. These will be distributed at the first of the year and when students return after Christmas. The list shall include, but not be limited to
  - Texas Department of Human Services
  - Child Abuse Hotline
  - Health Department
  - Texas Health Steps
  - Child Advocacy Center
  - District Attorney's office
- ★ BISD will collect surveys each spring (for currently enrolled families) to determine family interests and needs. A survey will also be given to new families as they register in the spring and summer. The surveys will be evaluated in order to plan family activities, plan parent development classes, and revise the community resource list.
- ★ BISD will recruit/identify people who are willing to serve as translators as the need arises. Translators will agree to have their contact information listed on the local resources handout.

### **Family participation in decision-making**

- ★ BISD will work through a site-based decision-making committee that will include at least one parent. That parent will also be invited to Benavides ISD district site-based meetings.
- ★ BISD will solicit input from all parents concerning the parent involvement policy, parent-teacher-student compacts, and family engagement plan.
- ★ BISD will collect surveys each spring designed to allow parents an opportunity to evaluate the BISD campus and provide suggestions for improvement.
- ★ BISD parents will be invited to the year-end Title I meeting designed to solicit parent input.
- ★ BISD will include parents from the Benavides Elementary campus in the annual Title I meeting held at the beginning of school.

★ BISD will sustain an open door policy that makes teachers and administrative staff available to parents on a daily basis.

**Equip families to with tools to enhance and extend learning**

★ BISD will continue to offer full day Pre-K to all students using the enhancing and extending socialization and facilitating parent involvement for all BISD parents.

★ BISD will provide parent training in the Montessori Method, curriculum, and assessment process to parents.

★ BISD will host a family night that will engage parents in Math, Science, Reading, Social Studies, and the Arts.

★ BISD will implement a functional and effective Parent Resource Center to serve our Benavides Elementary campus.

★ BISD will provide the following:

- Meet the Teacher Night
- Student Showcases
- Parent-Teacher conferences with all parents

★ BISD will publish a newsletter to keep parents informed of important information including program activities, suggestions for parents to become involved in their child's education, and upcoming events. This will be made available in digital format as well.

★ BISD will send home a monthly calendar of events occurring at the Benavides Elementary Campus that will include activities that can done at home for little or no cost corresponding to activities done in the classroom.

★ BISD will provide information to parents in a format and language they understand. All parent communication will be offered in English and Spanish translation as needed.

★ BISD will provide parents frequent reports on student progress using hardcopy and electronic reports. Report cards are sent home every 9 weeks.

**Develop staff to support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks**

★ BISD will promote and develop family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff.

★ BISD will provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families.

★ BISD will use developmentally appropriate activities to help children understand differences in families, cultures, and traditions.

★ BISD will make space available for staff to meet with families privately.

**Evaluate family engagement efforts and use the evaluations for continuous improvement**

★ BISD will include family engagement efforts on the spring survey designed to identify family interests and needs.

★ BISD will evaluate parent survey responses during the campus comprehensive needs assessment during the spring and summer.

★ Changes to family engagement efforts and the family engagement plan will be highly dependent on parent input.