

Lone Star Early Childhood Center

Parent and Family Engagement Policy/HQPK Family Engagement Plan

ESSA Section 1116

School Year 2023-2024

1. **Lone Star Early Childhood Center** shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of ESSA Section 1116 subsections (c) through (f). Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. Section 1116 (b)(1) & (e)(5)
 - a. The PFE policy will be reviewed and revised in conjunction with PTA meetings. Parent input will be sought through online surveys and in person at meetings. The revised policy will be distributed and explained to parents at fall parent teacher conferences. This policy will be translated into Spanish and documents will be posted to our campus website.

2. **Lone Star Early Childhood Center** shall convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved; Section 1116 (c)(1)
 - a. The school principal will conduct meetings at:
 - i. Tuesday, September 26, at 4:15 PM in the Lone Star ECC gym
 - ii. Tuesday, September 26, at 5:30 PM in the Lone Star ECC gym
 - iii. Thursday, September 28, at 8:30 AM by Zoom
 - b. Parents will be notified by their teachers through Monday Mail, on the school marquee, via Parent Square, PTA Facebook page, campus website, and physical fliers distributed at parent drop off.

3. **Lone Star Early Childhood Center** shall offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement; Section 1116 (c)(2) If you are need in such assistance, please contact the school office.

4. **Lone Star Early Childhood Center** will **increase family participation in decision making** and shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under section 1114(b) (Campus Improvement Plan), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the

school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children; Section 1116 (c)(3)

- a. PFE programs and activities are developed with parents participating in the process at PTA meetings throughout the year. The PFE policy will be reviewed and revised as needed. Parents play an important role on our Campus Improvement Committee and help us develop our Campus Improvement Plan at regular meetings.
- b. Provide beginning of year feedback opportunity through a survey for families to share needs
- c. **Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement**
- d. Provide follow up feedback opportunity through an end of year survey on family engagement opportunities and the Family Engagement Plan
- e. Opportunities for families to serve as advocates and leaders on various campus and district committees and groups to further learning

5. **Lone Star Early Childhood Center** shall provide parents of participating children— (A) timely information about programs under this part; (B) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and (C) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible; Section 1116 (c)(4)

- a. Parents will be informed of the PFE program and activities through the campus Monday Mail newsletter. Some activities will also be advertised through Parent Square and our social media channels. Parents and families will receive curriculum and assessment information at fall parent teacher conferences. Curriculum information is also shared weekly in the Monday Mail newsletter.

6. If the schoolwide program plan (**Campus Improvement Plan**, CIP) under section 1114(b) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency. Section 1116 (c)(5) The CIP will be explained to parents at fall parent teacher conferences and posted on the campus website. If parents have any concerns or comments, please give these to the principal.

7. **Lone Star Early Childhood Center** will **equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning**. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, LSECC shall: Section 1116 (e)

- a. provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's

progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; Section 1116 (e)(1)

- i. CLI assessment results will be reviewed with parents at fall parent-teacher conferences as well as learning goals shared.
- b. provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; Section 1116 (e)(2)
 - i. LSECC will host Meet the Teacher and Open House events to facilitate parents meeting with teachers and learning about the educational program at the school.
 - ii. LSECC teachers will send home weekly newsletters with activities to do at home that reinforce the curriculum.
 - iii. LSECC will host literacy events to model for parents strategies to strengthen student learning
 - iv. In partnership with St. Jude's Children's Ranch, LSECC will provide parenting resources, events, and education.
- c. educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; Section 1116 (e)(3). This will **develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks**
 - i. Lone Star parent representatives will present to all faculty on the importance of parent involvement.
 - ii. Lone Star staff members and a PTA representative will attend the State Conference for Parent and Family Engagement in October 2023. This team will bring back relevant information to enhance Lone Star's PFE activities and provide professional learning for faculty.
 - iii. Lone Star has a team of campus professionals who meet with parents to collaborate on designing effective parent engagement activities. Learning from this team is shared with faculty through newsletters and meetings.
 - iv. LSECC's Communities in Schools Case Manager provides training to faculty and staff on the needs of families and students with histories of trauma.
- d. to the extent feasible and appropriate, LSECC will **establish a network of community resources** to coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; Section 1116 (e)(4)
 - i. LSECC will conduct a Trunk or Treat event for families in partnership with CIS and PTA. Additional community stakeholders will participate providing health and wellness education and activities.

- ii. LSECC is partnering with St. Jude's Ranch for Children to provide educational opportunities for parents such as Child Seat Safety and the Fatherhood Initiative.
- iii. LSECC partners with Head Start who provides a variety of family services.
- e. provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. Section 1116 (e)(14)
 - i. LSECC partners with the Westside Community Center and the Food Bank to provide enrichment opportunities for families and students.
 - ii. LSECC partners with the New Braunfels Public Library to encourage parents reading to students through the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program.
 - iii. LSECC is partnering with the PTA to host the Watch D.O.G.S. program to facilitate the presence of male role models on campus.

8. Lone Star Early Childhood Center will Facilitate family to family support.

- a. LSECC will create safe and respectful environments where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups, invite former participants (including families and community volunteers) to share education and career experiences with current families, and ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families such as training on family leadership.

Strategies Include:

- i. Parent Engagement Activities for parent-child interaction and learning strategies for positive outcomes through family to family interactions
- ii. Parent Connection events provided to families that include a variety of formats, such as large group, play-based, or café style
- iii. Campus holds special family events for groups to collaborate and build relationships.
- iv. Additional training opportunities for families in response to the beginning of year feedback survey

This policy was approved by the LSECC Campus Improvement Committee on October 2, 2023.