



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

#BestSmallDistrictinTexas

CANUTILLO ISD PRE-K FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Canutillo ISD believes that the education of all students should be a partnership between the school and the parent community. Both the District and the parent community play an essential role in the success of all students.

The Early Childhood Coordinator, in collaboration with district early childhood teachers, parent liaisons and parents in the community, have created a family engagement plan that reflects practices that enhance parent and community involvement and reflect the specific needs of early learners.

1. Facilitate family to family support

The Canutillo ISD Early Childhood Program 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:

- Parent Engagement Classroom/Space at campuses open to all PK families in the district for parent-child interaction and learning strategies for positive outcomes through family-to-family interactions and Parent Educator support.
- Parent Connection events provided monthly to families that include a variety of formats, such as large group, play-based, or café style.
- Campuses hold special family nights for diverse groups to collaborate and build relationships, such as families with military backgrounds, families enrolled in the district's Montessori program, families with children enrolled in the district's Early Childhood Special Education program, etc.
- Additional training opportunities for families in response to the beginning of year feedback survey

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Texas Education Agency A-Rated Three Years in a Row.

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For additional information regarding Canutillo Independent School District's policy of nondiscrimination contact the Human Resources Division:
(915) 877-7423 | 7965 Artcraft Dr. | El Paso TX 79932.

2. Establish a network of community resources

The Canutillo ISD Early Childhood Program will build strategic partnerships, utilize community resources, monitor, and evaluate policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways. We will establish and maintain partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies and will provide and facilitate referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs. In addition, we will communicate short- and long-term program goals to all stakeholders; and identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language.

Strategies Include:

- Link families with support systems, peer to peer groups, bilingual translators, and various resources depending on family needs
- Utilize the district's Early Childhood Coordinator as a Liaison for connecting families with available resources
- Partnerships with community-based organizations, such as but not limited to: Workforce Borderplex, Early Matters El Paso, Early Childhood Intervention, ESC Region 19 Head Start, Parents as Teachers
- Make sure that families are aware of services and know about their rights under federal and state laws.
- Facilitate Family Engagement sessions with PreK Partnership partners and networks

3. Increase family participation in decision making using strategies

Canutillo ISD, in collaboration with early childhood families, will develop and support a family advisory council; develop, adopt, and implement identified goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement; develop and support leadership skills for family members and provide opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families.

Strategies Include:

- Establish a Parent Advisory Council for quarterly feedback and input on Family Engagement Plan
- Provide beginning of year feedback opportunity through a survey for families to share needs.
- Provide follow up feedback opportunity through an end of year survey on family engagement opportunities and the Family Engagement Plan
- Opportunities for families to serve as advocates and leaders on various campus and district committees and groups to further learning.

4. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning

The Canutillo ISD Early Childhood Program will provide family engagement opportunities that support parenting skills and activities that support ongoing achievement through educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership. Families will be provided with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities and will be equipped with resources and skills to support their children through the transition to school and by offering opportunities visit the school in advance of the prekindergarten school year.

Strategies Include:

- Approach parents as equal partners in their child's education while emphasizing parents as the child's first teacher.
- Provide resources and materials to Prekindergarten families on various content areas such as: literacy, math, and science materials available for Prekindergarten families to be utilized at home
- Elementary Campuses host family education nights open to all Prekindergarten families with topics that include; Language and Communication Development, Positive Discipline, Positive Brain Development, Meeting the Social Emotional Needs of Young Children, Assessment in Early Childhood

- Developmentally appropriate videos aligned with Prekindergarten Guidelines and focusing on parent interaction to be provided to families based on individual student learning gaps.
- Elementary Campuses will host Early Childhood Campus Night for Prekindergarten to Kindergarten transition support
- District will continue to host The Future is Now! Annual Family Engagement Conference
- Week of the Young Child
- Parent/family-teacher conferences
- Maria Montessori Birthday Celebration & Ongoing Parent Sessions
- provide complementary home learning activities for families to engage in at home with children through information presented in newsletters
- District Special Education Parent Support trainings
- Trainings focused on resources in both the Scholastic PreK On My Way Curriculum & Frog Steet Curriculum

5. Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks

Canutillo ISD will provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis; promote and develop family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff. We will develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies.

Strategies Include:

- Ongoing professional development for all early childhood staff in the area(s) of cultural responsiveness and how to connect with families.
- Additional professional development to include a simulation to experience families in crisis.
- Develop staff skills to support families in meeting their goals.
- Gain an understanding of early intervention services to support family inquiries and needs.

6. Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement

The Canutillo ISD Early Childhood Coordinator will collaborate with other departments to develop data collection systems to monitor family engagement and focus on engagement of families from specific populations to narrow the achievement gap. The use of this data will ensure the alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and will promote continuous family engagement practices.

Strategies Include:

- Participation data will be collected at family engagement events.
- Quarterly updates will provide parents an opportunity to provide feedback in a cyclical process.
- Ensure that parents' voices are heard and acknowledged during the improvement cycle.
- Teachers participate in the quarterly feedback cycle.
- TEA Prekindergarten Program Self-Assessment

Family engagement during the first years of life can support a preschool child's readiness for school and ongoing academic and lifelong success. Research shows that when children have involved parents, the results are very positive, especially over the long term (A New Wave of Evidence, 2002). Canutillo ISD strongly believes that establishing respectful, reciprocal relationships with and among families is an integral part of a child's positive experience in school.