Hutto Elementary School
Family Engagement Playbook
24-25

HES Family Engagement Vision Statement
At Hutto Elementary School, we are committed to creating an inclusive, positive, and supportive culture that values open communication and strengthening connections.

Priority Focus Areas		
Culture	Communication	Connections

Focus Area 1: Culture

Family engagement is the process we use to build genuine relationships with families. Positive relationships with families promote strong parent-child relationships, family well-being, and better outcomes for children and families. Understanding the cultural beliefs, values, and priorities of families is key to the family engagement process.[1]

"The collective beliefs, attitudes, norms, values, actions, and assumptions of the school organization explicitly embrace and are committed to the notion of families as a foundational core component to improvement."[2]

Sample research-based strategies:

- Home visits
- Cultural Nights
- Funds of Knowledge Inventory

Growth area	With the rapid growth of our community, the number of languages and cultures represented on our campus has changed significantly. HES strives to connect with all stakeholders on a holistic level.
S.M.A.R.T. Goal	Based on parent survey results, we will acknowledge/recognize/ celebrate 75% of our families' holidays, traditions, or culture during the 2024-2025 school year.
Roles & Responsibilities	● Teachers ● Admin ● PTA
Policies & standard operating procedures	● Establishing traditions and creating opportunities for teachers, students, families, and the community to engage in quality time with each other will help us make genuine relationships with people.
Strategies	● Establish annual traditions ● Survey all HES families and staff regarding holidays, traditions, and cultures. ● Hippo Holidays ○ Creating a culture event based on data from the culture survey. ● Dude's Night (STEAM/Numeracy Based) ● Ladies Night (Literacy Based)

[1] https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/family_engagement_and_cultural-perspectives-508_2-20-18.pdf

[2] "Engage Every Family: Five Simple Principles" Steve Constantino

	● Lunch Bunch with Officer Wheeler ● Reading Buddies ● Grandparents Day

Focus Area 2: Communication

"Ensure that communication between schools and families is consistent, proactive, responsive, and inclusive throughout the year. Experts stressed that communication between parents and schools needs to be consistent throughout the year and not occur only during open houses or semi-annual parent-teacher meetings or when a child is experiencing an academic or behavioral problem. Instead, interactions should be regular and reliable, responsive and respectful of each other's questions and concerns, and include data about individual students and information about how to improve student learning that is comprehensible and actionable for parents. Many experts suggested that all materials should be translated for non-English-speaking parents, and a few suggested surveying parents at the beginning of the year to determine their preferred method of communication."[3]

Growth area	HES has some strong communication practices, but there is room for growth in the consistency and perspectives of parents and teachers.
S.M.A.R.T. Goal	During the 2024-25 school year, HES will establish standard bi-directional communication methods across campus to share campus news and utilize a ritual to exchange information with all parents regularly.
Roles & Responsibilities	● Homeroom teachers/grade-level teams ● As needed: Counselors, Interventionists, SpEd case managers, special area teachers ● Students
Policies & standard operating procedures	● Every week, grade-level teams will send out a parent newsletter with campus news, upcoming events, and subject news—including parent education resources, specials information, etc.
Strategies	● Start all conferences and phone calls by sharing "Good News" → parent and teacher. ● Ensure communication with the parents of all students.

[3] Pineau, M.G., L'Hôte, E., Davis, C., & Volmert, A. (2018). Beyond Caring: Mapping the Gaps between Expert, Public, Practitioner, and Policymaker Understandings of Family, School, and Community Engagement. Washington, DC: FrameWorks Institute.

	● Parent newsletter weekly by grade level (include teacher contact information & curriculum information on how to help your child at home. Ex: Stemscopes/HMH parent letters. ● Work on parent perspective of school communication (specifically, phone calls/texts aren't always scary) ● Common communication platform - Parent Square ● Make written communication accessible to all parents/families → low literacy, Spanish speaking, other languages. ● How to navigate Skyward access included in BOY teacher information presentation. ● Student group to create campus news. (announcements)

Focus Area 3: Connections

"Initiate engagement early in the school year. Many experts emphasized the importance of practitioners and parents meeting at the beginning of the school year (or earlier) to discuss children's strengths and needs, inaugurate teachers' knowledge of each student and their learning style, and to agree on goals for their children/students. These early interactions establish school-family relationships and collaboratively set expectations for their respective roles in helping children achieve their goals."[4]

Build respectful, trusting relationships. This serves as the foundation for learning, responsibility, and motivation. If families have experienced a history of mistrust with schools, they are unlikely to participate even when incentivized. Meaningful relationships and trust make the difference.[5]

Growth area	As a community, we must host high-impact, academically focused (literacy, math, STEM) events targeting our entire student population.
S.M.A.R.T. Goal	At least once per semester, HES will host at least one high-impact academic school event with at least 50% parent participation.
Roles & Responsibilities	● Staff ● Counselor ● Admin

[4] Pineau, M.G., L'Hôte, E., Davis, C., & Volmert, A. (2018). Beyond Caring: Mapping the Gaps between Expert, Public, Practitioner, and Policymaker Understandings of Family, School, and Community Engagement. Washington, DC: FrameWorks Institute.
[5] Mapp, K. and Kuttner, P. (2013). Partners in Education: A Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships. Austin, TX: SEDL.

Policies & standard operating procedures	● Meeting parents where they are at (culturally, academics, and parenting skills).
Strategies	● Hosting academic events and fun events that draw families in and connect them to the campus. ● Meet the Teacher ● Open House ● Parent/Teacher Conferences ● Parent Surveys ● Coffee with the Counselor

HES Family Engagement Traditions
Hippo Holiday Hipporama The Great Pumpkin--Trunk or Treat Positive Phone Call Home Challenge Veteran's Day, Hispanic Heritage, Black History Month Performances Grandparent's Day Dude's Night-STEAM/Numeracy Based Ladies Night-Literacy Based Valentine's Dance (Cupid Shuffle) Hippo Herd-Welcome New Families Open House Pre-K/Kinder Popsicle Meet and Greet Thanksgiving Meal

Compliance

Campus Family Engagement Calendar

Month	Date	Engagement Activities	Focus Area
August		ECSE/Pre-K/Kinder Popsicle Meet and Greet Meet the Teacher	Culture Communication Connections
September		Positive Phone Calls First Nine Weeks Family Night/Open House (1st PTA General Meeting - Title Meeting), Hippo Herd Social, & Grandparent's Day Kindergarten ABC Fashion Show	Culture Communication Connections
October		Trunk or Treat Dude's Night (STEAM/Numeracy Based) Hispanic Heritage Celebration Parent/Teacher Conferences Student Led Conferences	Culture Communication Connections
November		Veterans Day Performance General PTA Meeting Thanksgiving Meal Sneaker Ball	Culture Communication Connections

		Pre-K/Kinder Friendsgiving	
December		Hippo Holidays	Culture Communication Connections
January		Hippoway & Semester Awards	Culture Communication Connections
February		Black History Month Performance Valentine's Dance Ladies Night (Literacy Based)	Culture Communication Connections
March		Glow Night - Art Event STEAM Day 4th Grade Texas History Living Museum	Culture Communication Connections
April		Hipporama Purple Up (Military Appreciation)	Culture Communication Connections
May		EOY Recognition	Culture Communication Connections
June			
July			