

2024-2025 Family Engagement Plan

Statement of Purpose

As part of its core beliefs, Fort Worth Independent School District stands committed to providing an equitable and supportive environment, communication and collaboration with our parents and community, and quality differentiated instruction that includes problem-solving, real-world connections, and social-emotional growth for all students.

The Family Engagement Plan for the Fort Worth Independent School District outlines the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement and engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

Facilitation of Family-to-Family Support

I. Parent Academy

Organized as a multitude of classes offered to parents throughout the year, the Parent Academy includes topics that help raise parental awareness of how to support their scholars in academics, health and mental wellness, and college and career readiness. The majority of these classes are facilitated District wide at Fort Worth ISD campuses by trained and experienced Family Engagement Specialists (Elementary/Middle School Level), Family Communication Outreach Specialists (High School Level) and Parent Partnerships central office staff. Though ideally held in person, in some cases, parent classes, are offered virtually.

II. Family Engagement and Family Communication Outreach Specialists

Family Engagement Specialists (FES) and Family Communications Outreach Specialists (FCOS) partner with their campus administrators and team to engage families and communities in creating events and activities intentionally designed to elevate attendance, empower family/school partnerships and attain CIP goals. This supports and continues the efforts that families, schools, and communities have set forth as they embrace the mutual responsibility for building relationships to support student learning and achievement, family well-being, and the continuous learning and development of children, families, and educators.

A top priority for the FES and FCOS staff is to engage and support families through daily personal calls to follow up on chronically absent students or to message information to

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individual families. The calls provide opportunities to build relationships with families as well as coordinate with the Parent Partnerships Department staff to utilize an effective referral process for assisting students and families in accessing school and community support programs and services. The FES and FCOS also support the campus food/ clothes pantry, attendance incentive store, PTA/PTO, SBDM, MTSS, and Attendance Committee.

Other priority responsibilities include communicating with the campus leadership team and other campus staff to exceed Title I mandates on parent policy, parent notifications, parent compacts, meetings, and events. In addition to these Title I responsibilities, accompanying designated campus staff on periodic home visits and establishing a technology-driven culture through the education of families and partners remains another essential task managed by this valuable position. All of these daily tasks/responsibilities lead to organizing, promoting and the implementation of special activities in the building that contribute to a positive and comprehensive school experience for the family and school community.

III. Volunteers

The Fort Worth ISD offers volunteer opportunities for parents, community members, corporate and non-profit entities, higher education institutions, and faith-based organizations. The current number of approved volunteers exceeds 10,000, all of whom generously contribute their skills and time to support our students, families, and staff.

How can you contribute to the transformative power of education? Volunteer!
You can start by completing an online volunteer application: [FWISD Online Volunteer Application](#). For questions, contact your school of choice or 817-814-2973.

IV. Translation Services

Fort Worth ISD Translation Services remains committed to providing document translations, in-person and virtual interpreters, listening devices for simultaneous interpretations, and over-the-phone language services to facilitate the communication of all languages between students, families, schools, District departments, the community and stakeholders. For more information, please visit the [Translation Services](#) Office website.

V. Countdown to Kindergarten

Fort Worth ISD Early Learning Department provides parents with an informative publication entitled Countdown to Kindergarten. It offers parents and caregivers an overview of important physical, social and emotional developmental milestones from birth through age 5 and suggested activities to encourage development.

This District-created booklet is shared on our District website.

www.fwisd.org/departments/early-learning/family-resources/countdown-to-kindergarten

VI. Head Start Collaboration

Fort Worth ISD has several Head Start Collaborations - Center for Transforming Lives (CTL) Head Start program. In addition, FWISD has 2 Community-based Pre-Kindergarten partnerships with YMCA and Lisa's Little Angels. This collaborative of diverse organizations working with FWISD children who are eligible for Head Start and Public Pre-K programs to offer full day services at selected FWISD campuses and community childcare centers. The full day program provides instructional services, healthy family initiatives, mental health and disability services aligned with positive child outcomes and well-informed families. Together we are ensuring that students and families are ready for school and ready for life!

Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making at the Campus and District Level

I. Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM)

Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM), a process that decentralizes decision-making, aims to improve educational outcomes specific to student needs at each campus. These decisions involve administrators, teachers, parents, business representatives and community members as partners in the business of increasing student achievement. The synergy created through the inclusion of all stakeholder perspectives benefit the decision-making process at the campus level. The role and responsibility of the site-based decision-making team is to provide input to the principal within the scope of State law and local policy. This process allows the principal to regularly consult the SBDM team in the planning, operation, supervision and evaluation of the campus educational program. For more information about participating at your campus, please contact the school principal.

II. Special Education PTA

The FWISD Special Education PTA, formed in 2018 by a diverse group of parents and educators, works to ensure that: 1) the mission of the District is being implemented for ALL students including students with disabilities and 2) students with disabilities have the best possible experience in school. Special Education PTA meets monthly and provides a platform for sharing resources, asking questions, and helping to provide support for families. The FWISD Special Education PTA is the first and only District wide PTA and exists to collaborate with schools and the community to improve the outcomes for students with disabilities.

III. Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC)

Each campus in Fort Worth ISD has established at least one Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC). The LPAC, formed before the beginning of the school year includes the following members:

- Administrative Liaison
- LPAC Chairperson (cannot be a teacher)
- DLI/ESL Lead Teacher
- Specialized ESL Teacher (SET) (if applicable)
- Newcomer Program Team Leader (if applicable)
- Parent of an emergent bilingual student participating in the program (not a FWISD employee)
- CTE Coordinator/Teacher (secondary only)
- ARD Committee Representative (Special Education Teacher or Evaluation Specialist)

All members of the LPAC must be trained to perform the duties of the committee according to State guidelines. The LPAC may meet as often as necessary during the school year to review pertinent data concerning emergent bilingual students: upon initial enrollment, State assessment decision-making, and end-of-year review to ensure students are placed in the appropriate program. For more information about participating at your campus, please contact the school principal.

IV. District Advisory Committee (DAC)

The District Advisory Committee (DAC), a Board-appointed committee, consists of representatives from the professional staff of the District, parents of students enrolled in the District, and business and community members. The committee meets four to six times per school year to advise the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees on educational plans, goals, performance objectives, and major classroom instructional programs. Each year the committee evaluates the academic progress in the District and assists staff in making changes to the District Educational Improvement Plan.

V. Fort Worth ISD Council of PTAs

Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) are well-represented across Fort Worth ISD. Each campus has its own governing body comprised of parents, teachers and school staff. Generally, PTA goals generally include volunteerism of parents, encouragement of teachers and students, community engagement, and welfare of students and families. For more information about joining the association at your campus, please contact the school. FWISD Council of PTAs fwisdCouncilpta@gmail.com

VI. School-Parent Compacts

Each Title I school must jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact as a component of its written parental involvement policy. A school-parent compact consists of a written agreement between the school and its parents. At a minimum, the school-parent compact must include:

- a) The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards
- b) Ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning (e.g., monitoring attendance, homework completion, or television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; or positive use of extracurricular time)
- c) The importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
 - Parent-teacher conferences to discuss the compact
 - Frequent reports to parents on their child's progress

- Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child’s class, and observation of classroom activities.

Enhance and Extend Learning Beyond the School Day

I. Home Educational Resources

The Ready Rosie short video program provides daily activities delivered to a parent’s mobile device (smartphone, tablet) or laptop via text, app, or email. The videos help parents prepare their children ages 0-5 for school success. The Ready Rosie library offers videos in English and Spanish.

The videos demonstrate activities families can do with their child anytime and anywhere. Because of the program’s online accessibility, these fun activities can be done in the car, at a restaurant, in the laundromat, at home, or any situation in which there may be free time to interact in a fun and helpful way to develop various skills! Plus, it increases the amount of quality time families spend together.

II. Zero to Five Program

The Zero to Five program empowers parents and families through engaging parent-child education classes. Designed for children from prenatal to age five, this program teaches and models best academic practices for parents. Utilizing District-approved Creative Curriculum resources, the program focuses on achieving the following key goals:

- Early Literacy and Language Development
- Development of Early Math Concepts
- Improve Cognitive, Perceptual, Motor Skills
- Improve Parenting Practices & Increase Child’s School Readiness Skills

The Parent Partnerships’ Zero to Five program currently offers the program at the nine locations listed below, with plans to expand in the immediate future. To obtain more information, please contact our Parent Partnerships Department at 817-814-3330.

2024-2025 Zero to Five Program Locations

- A.M. Pate Elementary School
- Carter Park Elementary School
- Diamond Hill Elementary School
- H.V. Helbing Elementary School

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- M.H. Moore Elementary School
- Oakhurst Elementary School
- Versia Williams Elementary School
- Western Hills Primary School
- W.M. Green Elementary School

III. Home Learning Activities-CLI Engage

Throughout the school year, students in a prekindergarten classroom are given special activities to help their teacher track their progress. The teacher looks at the results of this “progress monitoring” to determine if the children are developing the skills they will need for kindergarten and their later school years.

Activities for language, social and emotional skills, and mathematics are found on the website to help parents extend the school day. For more information, visit the [website](#).

IV. Empowering Families-Creative Curriculum for Texas Family APP

Creative Curriculum provides at-home resources for families, including Ready Rosie, Marco Polo, and the Family App. With Marco Polo videos, educators can easily record and share personalized messages and custom playlists aligned to classroom instruction. This tool helps reinforce learning at home and engages families in what their child is learning at school. We provide access to Spanish-language videos for multilingual children and their families. Modified video adventures also provide access to the same engaging content and learning objectives using simplified language and a more intentional pace.

Support Families in Meeting their Children’s Learning Benchmarks through Evidence-Based Practices

I. Ready Rosie Share

Pre-K teachers can access on Ready Rosie Share and send customized messages and hand-pick videos each week. They can align Ready Rosie activities to what is happening in the classroom so that families can more meaningfully partner on the education of their child.

II. Professional Learning Sessions for Cultural Responsiveness

Professional learning sessions available from Fort Worth ISD's Early Learning Department focus teachers' attention on the diversity of students who attend Fort Worth ISD schools. They include strategies for involving families from international origins.

Evaluation of Family Engagement Efforts and Use Evaluations for Continuous Improvement

I. Home Visit Data

Fort Worth ISD monitors data from the Family Engagement Specialists, Attendance Control Specialists, and the Head Start Collaboration. This data is used to track, monitor, and to create a plan of action to reduce chronic absenteeism and to recruit new families to enroll in FWISD.

II. Data from Ready Rosie Share Usage

Ready Rosie provides Fort Worth ISD with regular updates on account access and usage by parents for their Ready Rosie account. This information is tracked and monitored by the Early Learning Department to target certain schools and classrooms for increased communication and professional learning.

III. Parent Portal

Parent Portal is a web-based tool available to all parents with students enrolled in PK-12. With its easy to use interface, this tool will transform two-way communication. It works with the District's Student Information System (SIS) and allows parents to monitor their child's progress in school by providing timely access to both assignments and grades that are entered by the teacher throughout the grading period. We monitor:

- a) Parent sign-ups by campus
- b) Percentage of usage; frequency
- c) New and pending accounts

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District and Campus Social Media

Social media outlets connect us to students, parents, colleagues, our community, and the world. Furthermore, social media platforms allow a dialogue to take place between FWISD families and the community. Opportunities exist to solicit feedback and engage in meaningful exchanges while building brand equity and value.

<http://www.facebook.com/fortworthisd>

https://twitter.com/fortworth_isd

<https://www.instagram.com/fortworthisd/>

Fort Worth ISD Mobile App

Apps are valuable assets to our mobile devices. They provide convenient access to sites and services. The app is available on iTunes and the Google Play store. Information and services available on the app include:

- a) Stakeholder feedback: We welcome suggestions and ideas to better serve our audience.
- b) Resources and support: Calendars, news, grades, transportation, lunch menus, and more are available in one location.
- c) Notifications: District and school level notifications can be viewed and received at the users' convenience.

District and Campus Websites

Fort Worth ISD website is www.fwisd.org/. From the main webpage parents can access a variety of useful information and each campus website with just a few clicks.