



**Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District
High-Quality Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan**

Family engagement is defined as:

“The mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement, support family well-being, and the continuous learning and development of children, families, and educators. Family engagement is fully integrated in the child’s educational experience and is both culturally and linguistically appropriate.” Texas Administrative Code §102.1003.

Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District created a High-Quality Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan to promote collaborative partnerships with our schools, families, and community to ensure positive outcomes for our prekindergarten students. Collaboratively, we share the responsibility to support initiatives, activities and practices that enhance the success of student learning and achievement.

Family Engagement Plan Development Committee Member:

- Ruben Garcia, Family and Community Engagement Director
- Olga Cardoza, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator
- Abby Exinia, Early Start Specialist

Contact Person for Families:

- Ruben Garcia, Parental Engagement Program Director
- Yolanda Gomez, Executive Officer – 956-354-2000
- Claudia Gonzalez, Executive Officer 956-354-2000

Family Engagement Plan

Facilitate Family-to-Family Support

Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD's Pre-kindergarten/Early Childhood Program creates a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups by ensuring opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families.

- Meet the Teacher Nights at Elementary Campuses
- Academic Curriculum Elementary Meetings
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Adult Literacy Courses for District Parents
- Sustainability Goals/Expectations for PK/K Parent Meetings
- PK/K Student Learning and Sustainability Showcase
- PK/K Meet the Teacher Events
- Cultural Family Community District Night
- Halloween Trunk
- Red Ribbon Parade
- School Health Advisory Committee Meetings
- Daily Meeting between Teacher/Day Care Staff
- Christmas Posada Celebration
- Special Education District Annual Conference
- Professional Staff Development Sessions with District PK/K Staff and Day Cares

Establishing a Network of Community Resources

Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD's Pre-kindergarten/Early Childhood Program builds strategic partnerships by leveraging community resources; establishing and maintaining partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies; monitoring and evaluating policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways; identifying support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers; partnering with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings.

- Wraparound Resource Guide for Families ([Click here for Guide](#))
- HEB Large District Community Challenge
- Literacy Events
- South Texas College Community Literacy Courses
- Region I Community Literacy Courses
- Social Emotional Learning District Team
- Parent Workshops with State Providers on Food Stamp and Insurance Applications (Navigators-Parent Educators)
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Partnership
- Food Bank to Provide Free Food for Families
- Project Care - After-School Program for students of Working Families

- District and Parent Web Page Highlighting Community Resources, Events and Services
- Church Partnerships
- Child-Care Center Partnerships within the Tri-City Community
- Head Start Partnerships – Campus Based and Center Based

Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making

Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD increases/promotes family participation in decision-making by developing and supporting opportunities related to district and campus goal-setting efforts targeting family engagement; developing and supporting leadership skills for family members and providing opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families; collaborating with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers; engaging families in shaping program activities and cultivating the expectation that information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication; developing, in collaboration with families, clearly defined goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress; providing each family with an opportunity to review and provide input on program practices, policies, communications, and events in order to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of families. Utilize appropriate tools such as surveys or focus groups to gather feedback on the Family Engagement Plan.

- District Improvement Plan Committee
- Campus Improvement Plan Committee
- District Caregivers Panel
- District Leadership Team Panel
- District Advisory Council (DAC) Committee (Parent Lead Meetings)
- LPAC Committee Parent Group
- Title, I Survey
- Monthly Campus Meetings
- Title I Compliance Meeting Feedback-Title I Meetings, Campus Policy Meetings, Campus Compact Meetings, Campus Plan Meetings (Parent Feedback)
- Annual District Feedback Meeting

Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning

Pre-Kindergarten educators in Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD recognize the families of our learners as the first and best teachers in the child's life. In order to equip families with tools to enhance and extend their child's learning, our educators work with families to design or implement existing home educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership; provide families with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities; equip families with resources and skills to support their children through the transition to school and offering opportunities for families and children to visit the school in advance of the pre-kindergarten school year; provide complementary home learning activities for families to engage in a home with children through information presented in newsletters, online tech tools, social media, parent/family-teacher conferences, or other school-related events; provide

information focusing on age-appropriate developmental expectations; collaborate with families to appropriately respond to children's behavior in a non-punitive, positive, and supportive way; and assist families to implement best practices that will help achieve the goals and objectives identified to meet the needs of the child and family.

- Ready Rosie in Home Program
- Family Conferences Required
- District Literacy Courses (ESL, GED in English and Spanish)
- Annual Caregiver Skills Survey
- Fall and Spring District Curriculum Event
- Parent Educator Presentations on District Home Access and Learning Programs
- Campus Volunteer Program
- Campus/Day Care Tours
- District and Parental Engagement Web Page
- District Home Access Center

Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting their Children's Learning Benchmarks

Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD believes in a continuous improvement. We provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families.

- Age of Learning - Math Academy (Parental Support)
- Age of Learning – Reading Academy (Parental Support)
- PK Teachers minimum of 30 hours professional development
- PK Guidelines
- Training from Consultants & District Early Childhood Specialties
- Children's Learning Institute Engage Resources and Circle Progress Monitoring Platforms
- Districtwide Communities of Practice
- Region I Trainings
- Coaching and Mentoring Teacher Support
- Children's Learning Institute Partnership
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (Over 200 sessions in Early Childhood)
- Frog Street Curriculum (Conscious Discipline)

Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Use Evaluations for Continuous Improvement

Self-assessment will be a cornerstone to the overall process of evaluating program effectiveness and to support future improvements. Our district develops a data collection system that monitor family engagement; uses data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement; employs an evaluation

plan to guide action; uses a cyclical process to ensure evaluation results are used for continuous improvement and adjustment; and ensures educators and parents play a role in the family engagement evaluation process.

- Campus Improvement Plan Cycle
- District/Campus Climate Survey
- Title I Parent Survey
- District Performance Report
- Campus Comprehensive Needs Assessment
- Ready Rosie Participation Data
- Family and Participation Attendance Data

Transition Activities

- Engage with local childcare providers to share and align best practices for family engagement, setting and communication learning goals and student progress monitoring.
- Provide school tours/visits with local childcare providers and community to ensure smooth transitions.
- Create a transition plan to support children and families moving from one grade to the next

Linguistic & Culturally Inclusive Practices

- Use Cultural Relevant Materials in Classrooms and Daycares
- Use English and Spanish on all Communication sent to Families
- Have the Human Resource Department implement linguistic and cultural hiring practices
- Implement Ongoing Professional Development on Culturally Responsive Topics which relate to a Prekindergarten Students

Conclusion

The Family and Community Engagement Program at Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District is one of the strategies our district implements to guide all our collaborative success. The Family Engagement Plan shared responsibility increases and enhances the collaboration of district staff with parents. Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD is committed to ensuring that the youngest scholars of the district are given extensive and rigorous scholastic opportunities that are supported by an educational partnership of district staff and parents that will assist students in being fully prepared for future academic endeavors. All efforts will be focused on improving the educational foundation of all students in an innovative way that will help them write their success stories in an ever-changing world.