

Iola ISD High Quality PreK Family Engagement Plan

2024-25

Introduction

"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.

Family Engagement Plan

Family Engagement Plan Component	Component Description	Activity/Event/Practice Details and Timing
Facilitate Family to-Family Support	Open and transparent communication enables school staff to foster a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment that encourages positive interactions between families.	The IISD Prekindergarten program fosters a safe and welcoming space where families can connect, learn from one another, engage in family-focused educational opportunities, and strengthen school and community support systems, including: • School and classroom volunteering • School carnivals and Book Fairs, where families can get to know one another and share community and school experiences. • Meet the Teacher Night which facilitates family-to-family interactions and networking • Iola Elementary PTO and sponsored events encourage parent volunteer opportunities allowing parents to work collaboratively and provides opportunities for families to have ongoing connection. • Class field trips and other activities that include family participation. • School Health and Advisory Council and Site Based Decision Making Teams provide opportunities for parents to interact and network with other parents interested in supporting public education in the Iola community. • PK Round-up encourages an early connection opportunity between teachers and future PreK Students and their families.

Establish a network of community resources	Iola ISD will establish strategic partnerships with community organizations to maximize resources for caregivers through the community resources handbook and continuous district-wide events.	The IISD PK Family Engagement Plan is part of a district-wide effort to form strategic partnerships by utilizing community resources from nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, businesses, and local community-based organizations, including mental and physical health providers. This collaboration aims to create a smooth, family-friendly transition for students. These organizations will establish a network of resources that directly support Prekindergarten families as needed. • Bilingual employees provide (as needed) translation services for families at events, meetings, etc. • Some of these resources include: District Student Support, Special Education Parent Support and Early Childhood Family Services, LPAC, counseling, and Texas A&M Mobile Health clinic. They facilitate student and family needs referrals for basic necessities, student and parent physical and mental health needs.
Increase family participation in decision making	Throughout the year, involvement in district and school-wide decision-making empowers caregivers to take on the role of their child's primary teacher and advocate.	Examples of some of the opportunities prekindergarten families can participate in are: • Campus committees composed of campus staff, community partners, parents, and business representatives focusing on planning, curriculum, budgeting, staff development, overall school organization, all with the intent of improving the achievement of all learners at the campus • District Student Health Advisory Committee • Iola Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization • LPAC/504/ARD Parent participation • Regularly held parent/teacher conferences • Educating families regarding their rights under State and Federal Law regarding the Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act

Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning	Caregivers have various opportunities to learn about their child's progress and ways to support their success at home. Additionally, caregivers are offered personal opportunities for extended learning.	• Iola ISD provides a high-quality full-day PK program for eligible learners, promoting socialization and encouraging parent involvement for Pre-K families. • Teacher/parent conferences are held throughout the school year to collaborate on setting goals for children in the PK program. • Families are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom, using the opportunity to improve communication about their child's development. • Suggested home extension activities are provided, aligned with classroom activities. • Family-friendly technology tips and resources, including downloadable apps, are shared to enhance parents' understanding of child development. • PK registrations, available during the summer and school year, include campus tours and detailed school/program information. • Parents are encouraged to access class, campus, and district information via the Parent Portal on the Iola ISD website. • Regular updates on learner progress are provided through report cards, weekly teacher communication, and more. • Beginning-of-Year (BOY), Middle-of-Year (MOY), and End-of-Year (EOY) benchmarks are shared. • mCLASS data is used to track and assess student progress. • The Iola ISD Code of Conduct is provided to parents.
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Provide ongoing professional development opportunities for educators	Prekindergarten teaching staff participate in professional development opportunities to support teachers as they craft an engaging and inclusive environment for Prek families.	● PK Guidelines ● Technology for young children ● Districtwide Communities of Practice ● Region 6 ESC training, coaching, mentoring District-wide strengths-based. ● Campus-based Professional Development (PD) sessions on varying topics
Evaluate family engagement efforts and use results for continuous improvement	Ongoing campus/district needs assessment cycle will seek input to improve the quality of instruction, climate, and family engagement	● Campus Improvement Plan cycle ● Title I Parent Survey (end of year) ● District Performance Report ● Beginning-of-Year student-centered goal setting and family conferences.

Transition Activities:

- Provide school tours to encourage smooth transitions to PreK and Kindergarten
- Retrieve incoming-PreK student data during the summer, so teachers are prepared to best support PreK students from day one.

Linguistic & Culturally Inclusive Practices:

- Use culturally relevant materials in classrooms and for communication sent to families
- Use home languages for all communications sent to families
- Provide translators and interpreters during events/activities for caregivers

Conclusion:

The Iola ISD HQPK Family Engagement Plan is a key strategy used by our district to promote success. The positive relationships fostered between staff and families through this plan help create a shared understanding of how we can work together to ensure that every child reaches their full potential, from birth through kindergarten and beyond.