

Early Childhood Family Engagement Plan

2024-2025



SHERMAN

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Contact

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Sherman ISD will implement the following family engagement plan at Fred Douglass Early Childhood Center and Perrin Early Childhood Center in conjunction with the current Head Start and Title I family engagement plans and in accordance with TAC 102.1003(f) to assist the district in achieving and maintaining high levels of family involvement and positive family attitudes toward education.

The family engagement plan includes the following six components outlined in House Bill 4 Highly Quality Prekindergarten Grant established under Subsection (b). Since the district is a partner of the Region 10 Head Start Program they will work in collaboration with them to ensure alignment between both programs (prekindergarten and Head Start).

Sherman ISD's family engagement plan addresses the following areas:

1. Facilitate family-to-family support

- a. Create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups

2. Establish a network of community resources

- a. Establish and maintain partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies
- b. Identify support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers
- c. Communicate short- and long-term program goals to all stakeholders
- d. Identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language

3. Increase family participation in decision making

- a. Develop, adopt and implement identified goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement
- b. Provide 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 the families
- c. Use appropriate tools such as surveys or focus groups to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan

4. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning

- a. Design or implement existing home educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership
- b. Provide complimentary home learning activities for families to engage in at home with children through information presented in newsletters, online technology, social media, parent/family-teacher conferences, or other school or center-related events. Seesaw, Seesaw Activities, Frog Street Press curriculum have family resources built into the program. Weekly notes and monthly newsletters connect school and at home learning.
- c. Collaborate with families to appropriately respond to children's behavior in a non-punitive, positive, and supportive way
- d. Assist families to implement best practices that will help achieve the goals and objectives identified to meet the needs of the child and family

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

- a. Promote and develop family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff
- b. Develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies

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

- a. Conduct goal-oriented home visits to identify strengths, interest and needs
- b. Use data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement
- c. Ensure teachers play a role in the family engagement process