



SAN BENITO CISD

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

San Benito CISD provides a high-quality prekindergarten program to its youngest learners. Our goal is to bring families, schools, and the community together for the success of our students. In June 2017, the Texas Legislature passed The General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 78. Part of this legislation requires districts to create a specific family engagement plan for prekindergarten programs.

Family engagement as defined in Rider 78 says, “The mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities is to build relationships that support student learning and achievement, family well-being, and the continuous learning and development of children, families, and educators. Family engagement is fully integrated into the child’s educational experience, supports the whole child, and is both culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate.”

The following goals and strategies explain how San Benito CISD is engaging families.

EC FAMILY ENGAGEMENT GOAL	EC STRATEGIES IN ACTION
1. Facilitate family-to-family support • Create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups • Invite former program participants, including families and community volunteers, to share their education and career experiences with current families • Ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families such as training on family leadership	Pre-kindergarten teachers and teacher assistants will provide parents with opportunities to participate in district and campus initiatives such as: • Providing communication and resources in English & Spanish to support bilingual families. • Pre-K Specific Family Engagement Activities • Collaboration with Head Start • Parent Volunteering Opportunities • Parent/Teacher Organizations • PK Round-Up/Registration Activities • Field trips and other activities that include family participation
2. Establish a network of community resources • Build strategic partnerships • Leverage community resources • Monitor and evaluating policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways • Identify support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers • Partner with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings • Providing and facilitating referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs • Communicate short- and long-terms program goals to all stakeholders	• District Family Support Services • Children’s Learning Institute • Child Nutrition Information • Access to Social Worker (Communities in Schools) • Provide Access to Community Resources • Facilitating referrals for needed services • Parents and families of students are invited to participate in Family and Community Engagement (FACE) activities.

Identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language	
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3. Increase family participation in decision-making <i>Develop and support a family advisory council</i> <i>Develop, adopt, and implement identified goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement</i> <i>Collaborate with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers</i> <i>Engage families in shaping program activities and cultivating the expectation that information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication</i> <i>Develop, in collaboration with families, clearly defined goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress</i> <i>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 families</i> <i>Use appropriate tools such as surveys or focus groups to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan</i>	- Illicit parent feedback of instructional and engagement practices. - Continue an open dialogue between families, teachers & school through a variety of communication tools (such as: daily communication journals, Remind App, Class Dojo App, social media platforms, and parent/teacher conferences) - Campus Level Meetings & Parent Centers - Parents serve on committees - Invite family feedback after events - PTA/PTO Participation - Campus Weekly Communication Folders - Campus and District Surveys - Parent Advisory Committee
4. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning - Design or implement existing home educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership - Providing 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 prekindergarten school year - Providing complementary home learning activities for families to engage in at home with parent/family-teacher conferences, or other school- or center-related events - Providing families with information, best practices, and training related to age-appropriate developmental expectations - Emphasize benefits of positive family practices such as attachment and nurturing that complement the stages of children's development - Collaborating with families to appropriately respond to children's behavior in a non-punitive positive, and supportive way	- Provide parents with digital and print access to CLI Engage progress monitoring and assessments - Encourage parents to attend family engagement trainings throughout the school year - Encourage evening activities for family engagement and interaction - Transition meetings with elementary campuses - Campus Early Literacy Family Nights - Parent Notification of Performance - CLI Engage - Campus Parent Conferences and Open House - Social Media/Technology - District and Campus websites, Remind, Class Dojo, etc. - Pre-K Sign-Up Activities - Campus-Scheduled Home Visits - Campus Activities - ECF Device distribution - FACE activities for families

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5. Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks • Provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis • Promote and develop family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff • Develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies	• Train teachers on CLI Engage assessment and progress monitoring tools • Offer and provide access to trainings for High Quality PreK through the cooperative program at Region 1 Education Service Center • Participate in coaching throughout the school year • Provide professional learning opportunities through San Benito CISD based on data from CLI Engage
6. Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement • Conducting goal-oriented home visits to identify strengths, interests, and needs • Developing data collection systems to monitor family engagement and focusing on engagement of families from specific populations to narrow the achievement gap • Use data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement • Use a cyclical process to ensure evaluation results are used for continuous improvement and adjustment • Ensure teachers play a role in the family engagement evaluation process	• Review parent surveys of instructional and engagement practices in PK • Keep records of family participation/attendance at school or district events • Keep records of communication logs and sign in sheets • Use program evaluation tool to identify areas in need of improvement