



The **Family and Community Engagement Program (FCE)** fosters strong partnerships between parents, schools, and the broader community by implementing a wide range of district- and network-wide strategies. These include key programs and initiatives such as the Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT), Site-Based Decision Making (SBDM) support, District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), parent organization support, Family Resources On The Go (FROG Bus), Parent Portal, Uniform Assistance Program, the Elevated Engagement Podcast and Newsletter, and departmental marketing and social media. FCE coordinators also organize and support major events and activities, including Fam Jams, Academic Partnering Workshops, and gather parent feedback.

Key Findings

Implementation

- Six Campus Support Team coaches provided resources and monthly training to campus staff.
- Eighty-six percent of Essentials indicators were above 70 percent (+9 percentage points vs. 2024-25), but parent organizations and participation in decision-making remain areas for improvement.
- Fam Jams engaged 1,471 families with regional attendance averaging 246 families per meeting.
- The Uniform Assistance Program distributed 8,584 uniforms at a 97 percent eligibility rate, focusing primarily on elementary students in Regions 3, 2, 6, and 5.
- The FROG Bus served 1,104 parents and guardians across 33 stops (12% participation growth) and reached 78 percent Pathway to Excellence campus coverage.
- Driven by strong newsletter readership (19.7k average per issue), overall reach grew 703 percent to 197.5k. Podcast engagement remained low with 109 total listens across 5 episodes.
- Academic Partnering increased in-person programming to 31 sessions (355 parent attendees), hosted 10 monthly live Facebook webinars, had high parent satisfaction, and provided 861 students with skill-building materials for home practice.
- Most campuses maintained engagement committees: SBDM reached 96 percent, FELT rose to 96 percent (+52% vs. 2024-25), and DPAC met regularly with vertical team representation reaching 78 percent (+63% vs. 2024-25).

Stakeholder Feedback

- Survey results from multiple stakeholders indicate strong satisfaction with FCE support.
- Eighty-seven responding principals and assistant principals and nearly all Parent Support Specialists expressed satisfaction, with high ratings for coach accessibility and helpfulness. At least 79 percent of staff found professional development beneficial.
- Parent survey responses (N = 17,621) showed that most parents felt confident supporting learning at home and comfortable interacting with school personnel. Families highlighted childcare as a key barrier to event accessibility and expressed the highest interest in programming focused on academics (74%), parenting tips (53%), mental health (46%), and nutrition (39%).

Student Outcomes

Academic Partnering

- Students of participating parents outperformed non-participants in STAAR 3-8 Reading (+10% Approaches+, +8% Meets+, +7% Masters) and saw an even greater lead in STAAR 3-8 Math (+18% Approaches+, +14% Meets+, +4% Masters).

FCE Index

- In 2025-26, most families reported low to moderate engagement, consistent with the previous year. Higher engagement was most prevalent among families of PreK and 7th-grade students, particularly Hispanic and African American families.
- Students from highly engaged families had significantly higher STAAR 3-8 meeting rates.
- Increasing family engagement raises the likelihood of students reaching Approaches+ in STAAR 3-8 Math and Reading by ten percent each, and reaching the Masters level in STAAR 3-8 Math by nine percent.
- In schools where families feel parent involvement is not supported, students are five percent less likely to reach Approaches+ in Math, and three percent less likely to reach either Math Masters or Reading Approaches+ in STAAR 3-8 assessments.



Recommendations

- **Boost overall family engagement, remove participation barriers, and align program goals with operational priorities.**

Continue working toward team goals while promoting overall family engagement and addressing barriers to participation. Key potential strategies include strengthening essential indicators like parent organization to give all stakeholders an active voice, aligning programming with parent-requested priorities in academics, parenting tips, mental health, and nutrition, as well as guaranteeing childcare to increase event attendance. Additionally, efforts can focus on volunteering and community collaboration as identified core drivers of involvement. At the same time, program goals should be realigned to match daily operations and core office priorities. Refining these SMART goals will allow the FCE Office to accurately measure progress, reflect its full scope of notable work, and clearly communicate its impact to stakeholders.

- **Continue to expand and strengthen initiatives that directly impact student academic outcomes.**

Building on the reported link between Family and Community Engagement and elevated student achievement—evidenced by Academic Partnering gains and Family and Community Engagement Index links to *State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness 3-8* performance—continue to expand targeted family academic support strategies to boost student performance & close achievement gaps. Additionally, outreach should be scaled for high-need students during early childhood and middle school transition years to build strong home-school learning habits early.

- **Enhance Data Quality, Integration, and Real-Time Tracking Through Qualtrics**

Building on the department's strong survey modernization progress, continue centralizing survey administration on Qualtrics, expanding real-time dashboards to track and boost internal survey response rates against target goals, and integrating student ID authenticators. This approach improves data quality by avoiding fragmented collection across disparate instruments and communicating progress toward live targets. Furthermore, embedding secure ID verification eliminates redundant data entry, ensures authentic respondent verification, and allows for direct, reliable linking between FCE participation data and student academic records.