Tolar ISD Family Engagement Plan

Introduction

The Tolar Independent School District is committed to making parents/guardians, community members and educators full partners with TISD, empowering families to support the early learning and development of children and by providing families educational opportunities and resources to ensure lifelong success.
In accordance with the Commissioner's Rule 102.1003 (f), TISD will establish the following family engagement strategies that are based on best practices research to support student learning, achievement and family well-being. These practices are proven to demonstrate positive short-term and long-term outcomes for early childhood education. This document highlights the various examples of the multitude of strategies the campus will select to participate in, based on the individual needs of the students and parents of that campus, which will include the six family engagement plan components. Some activities will meet more than one component and could be applicable to both.

A. Facilitate family-to-family support using strategies such as:

- Activities building positive and productive relationships where families can learn from each other.
- Provide a safe environment at each campus to promote family engagement, considering the different barriers that hinder family involvement. (“Meet & Greet and Family Nights)
- Assist families in creating goals for their child and help in obtaining those goals.

B. Establishing a network of community resources using strategies such as:

- Build community partnerships with colleges such as Tarleton State University to improve the education level of families.
- Maintain a relationship with city wide organizations to enhance adult and child learning.

C. Increase family participation in decision-making using strategies such as:

- Families will be given the opportunity to give input on beginning and end of year surveys, surveys about their needs, surveys about family engagement, etc.
- Parents will be included in the District Improvement Committee, as well as Campus Improvement Committees on each campus.

D. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning using strategies such as:

- Host Parent Cafes to provide discussion on topics of how parents can help their child be more successful at school and home.
- Technology workshops to allow parents to be active partners in their child's education and help them become 21st century learners and ultimately digital citizens.

E. Assist staff in developing skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks using strategies such as:

- Provide staff training to ensure that they are building relational capacity with students and parents.
- Provide professional development that focuses on crucial conversations.

F. Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement using strategies such as:

- Set child-centered goals with parents and meet periodically throughout the year in order to discuss the progress that has been made.
- All campuses will incorporate district family engagement goals in their Campus Improvement Plans with specific family engagement strategies outlined that follow this plan and support the district goals.
- The district will survey parents annually on the effectiveness of the experience for their child and their family.
- Evaluate programs annually within the district using a nationally recognized evaluation tool to collect data for continuous improvement.

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