Waco ISD PreK Family Engagement Plan

“The mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities is to build a relationship 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.

Waco Independent School District believes families are critical partners in student achievement. The Waco ISD PreK Family Engagement Plan outlines how the district seeks to build lasting relationships with families beginning in prekindergarten to ensure that all children are equipped with the social-emotional and academic skills to benefit them in the prekindergarten classroom and beyond.

Through the goals outlined below, Waco ISD PreK will:

- Embrace the diverse and unique family populations with young children
- Educate and empower families to support their children’s learning and
- Connect families with community resources

Family Engagement Plan Overview

Component	Waco ISD Action Steps
Facilitate Family-to-Family Support	Provide a safe and welcoming campus environment that offers families opportunities to network and learn from each other and participate in district and campus initiatives while growing school/community support systems such as: ● School Open House and Meet the Teacher events which facilitate family-to-family interactions and networking prior to or in the first days of school ● Classroom activities where families are invited to participate ● After-hours on-campus events (Academic Nights, Cultural Fairs, other miscellaneous general family engagement activities) ● Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meetings
Connect Families to Community Resources	Partner with a variety of community-based organizations to support the needs of all families. Families can access resources through: ● On-campus personnel, such as: ○ Classroom teacher who provides resources through newsletters and communication ○ School counselors who coordinate services with community organizations ○ School nurses who educate and provide information to families ● District and campus websites
Increase Family Participation in Decision Making	Offer opportunities for families to advocate for their children and guide decision making through: ● Ongoing communication with teachers, principals, and other school staff ● Sharing academic and social progress monitoring, report card information and PreK assessment data with families, encouraging their feedback, questions, and ideas regarding future learning experiences ● Family/Teacher Conferences

	• PTO • District and campus personnel widely solicit parents (non-district employees) of English Language Learners (ELLs) currently participating in a language program to volunteer to serve as parent representatives on the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC)
Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning	Support families to prepare their children for the next grade by sharing practical tips and ideas via: • Family/Teacher Conferences • Campus Academic Nights • Ongoing communication with teachers via campus websites, newsletters, emails, or online platforms (SeeSaw, Class Dojo, etc)

Develop staff skills to support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks	Support teachers and instructional assistants to build strong relationships with families, ensuring all students are ultimately Kindergarten ready through:
	• Early Childhood Staff (including District and Campus staff) attend trainings including, but not limited to:
	  ○ CLI CIRCLE Assessment and Reporting (PK3, PK4)
	  ○ CLI Engage CIRCLE Family Activity Collection (PK3, PK4)
	  ○ FrogStreet Curriculum (PK3, PK4)
	• Ongoing Staff Development Opportunities
	  ○ PreK Academy
	  ○ Small Group Lesson Planning
	  ○ Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines
	  ○ District PD opportunities during in-service days focused on best practices
	• Resources to help families support learning at home
	• Mentoring/Coaching

Transition Activities:

- Create a transition plan to support children and families moving from PK4 to Kindergarten
- Provide families with a Waco ISD Prekindergarten Summer Newsletter to offer ideas to use at home to prevent the "summer slide"

Linguistic & Culturally Inclusive Practices:

- Ensure Human Resources Dept. routinely implements linguistically and culturally inclusive hiring practices
- Use culturally relevant materials in classrooms and for at-home learning ideas sent to families
- Provide translators and interpreters as needed for families

Conclusion:

The Waco ISD PreK Family Engagement Plan is one tool our district uses to prepare our youngest students for school readiness and lifelong success. The collaborative relationships promoted through this plan intend to engage and empower families by building a shared understanding of how working together will support their children's social-emotional and academic trajectories. This will ultimately ensure every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential, from birth to kindergarten and beyond.

WACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
EARLY CHILDHOOD