De Zavala Elementary School
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# De Zavala Elementary School
# Parent & Family Engagement Policy
# 2026 - 2027

The San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District (SMCISD) and De Zavala are committed to creating a strong partnership with parents and families that is built on trust. This partnership is based on an agreement in which all members understand and accept their roles and responsibilities in helping students do well in school. It is a partnership through which all members will work to:

- Welcome each other
- Offer their personal strengths and knowledge
- Provide assistance, and
- Listen and speak respectfully to each other

**Engagement: What does it look like?**

To build a strong partnership that improves student learning, De Zavala has a Parent and Student Engagement (PaSE) Committee that leads the work of parent and family engagement. The committee focuses on engaging parents and students in ways that help students do well in school. Engagement opportunities for 2026-2027 may include:

- DZ Clubs and after school clubs for students
- Extra-curricular opportunities for students
- Student-led parent/teacher conferences, held at least once a year, where the School-Parent Compact is discussed
- School meetings to inform parents about how students performed on state assessments (STAAR) and about the campus goals in the 2026-2027 Campus Improvement Plan
- Volunteering programs and opportunities to visit and observe classroom activities
- Family reading, math, and science nights and celebrations, including science and STEM activities
- Adult classes such as GED or ESL
- Trainings such as finding your child's grades and attendance records online, using iReady at home, or finding community resources that provide learning opportunities for your child outside of school
- Parent learning opportunities such as computer classes, or classes to understand if your child is making good progress in his/her classes

- Attendance celebrations and a "Why Attendance Matters" campaign to help families see how coming to school every day connects to learning

**ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING**

De Zavala will hold an annual Title I meeting in the fall at a time convenient for families. At this meeting, families will learn about the campus Title I schoolwide program, its requirements, and their right to be involved. De Zavala will offer meetings at different times of the day, such as mornings and evenings, so that more families can attend.

Parents and family members will be involved in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in planning, reviewing, and improving this policy, the School-Parent Compact, and the Campus Improvement Plan. Family members serve on the PaSE Committee and are invited to give feedback through the Campus Improvement Team and the annual family survey.

De Zavala and its families will jointly develop a School-Parent Compact that explains how parents, school staff, and students will share responsibility for improved student achievement. The compact will be reviewed with families during parent/teacher conferences.

This policy will be shared with all De Zavala families in English and Spanish at the beginning of the school year and posted on the campus website.

**Committees: What will they look like?**

De Zavala will have a committee that focuses on parent and student engagement. The committee will include representation from parents, students, District employees, and community members from various San Marcos communities. The committee is named the De Zavala PaSE Committee. PaSE stands for Parent and Student Engagement.

The campus PaSE Committee will provide training to campus staff at the beginning of each school year. The training will include:

- The importance of parent and family engagement and the value of what families contribute
- Effective ways to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
- Creating a welcoming and service-oriented school setting

The campus PaSE Committee will provide training to parents and families at the beginning of each school year. The training will include:

- Helping parents and families understand what the State of Texas and SMCISD expects students to learn for each grade level
- Helping parents and families understand how the State and SMCISD will check to see if students have met the expectations
- Helping parents and families understand how they can check to see how their child is doing in school
- Helping parents and families understand how they can help their child if he/she is not doing well in school
- Helping parents and families understand the reading and math programs used at De Zavala (Amplify Reading, Bluebonnet Math, and iReady) and how to support them at home

**COMMUNICATION**

SMCISD and De Zavala will use different ways of communicating with parents and families to increase outreach. These will include:

- Campus newsletters, flyers, and posters
- Phone calls, emails
- District website
- Social media (Facebook and X)
- Home and community visits
- SMCISD Mobile App
- Teacher communication through Google Classroom and class messaging

De Zavala will share information with families in a timely manner and, as far as practical, in a format and language families can understand. Information will be provided in English and Spanish, and in other languages or accessible formats when needed, including for families with disabilities.

**CAMPUS CONTACTS**

De Zavala will have a counselor available as a point of contact for parents and families. The counselor and our Communities In Schools (CIS) partner can help families with:

- Contacting teachers and counselors
- Becoming a volunteer at your child's school

- Providing classes of interest to parents and families
- Providing information about after school programs that are available
- Providing school supplies to students who cannot afford their own
- Connecting to support services such as housing, clothing, medical, food, and student/family counseling
- Home visits to bridge communication between home and school
- Attendance support, including a phone call or check-in when a student has missed several days of school

**SUPPORT**
De Zavala will support efforts to engage parents and families in order to help student learning by:

- Using campus parent and family engagement funds to purchase materials and provide learning opportunities to parents and families
- Connecting families to district community learning centers, where training and classes are offered at various times of the day, including classes on social, emotional, and physical health
- Partnering with community organizations, including Communities In Schools, to help parents and families understand community resources and opportunities and how to access them

**EVALUATION**
De Zavala leadership will meet at least two times, once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester, with the PaSE Committee to review how the campus is engaging parents and families to improve student learning. If needed, the committee will recommend improvements.

De Zavala will conduct an evaluation at the end of each year, with meaningful involvement of parents, to see how to improve the partnership with parents and families for the following school year. The evaluation will focus on how De Zavala:

- Worked with parents and families to increase understanding of how their child/children did in school
- Worked with parents and families to increase understanding of what they could have done to help their child/children when they were not doing well in school
- Worked with parents and families who were not able to participate in opportunities provided by the Campus or District
- Worked with parents and families to help with any challenges that may have prevented them from participating in opportunities provided by the Campus or District

The annual family survey will be part of this evaluation. In 2025-2026, families told us De Zavala feels like family and that they appreciate our events and activities. In 2026-2027, the campus will use survey results to identify barriers to participation, especially for families with limited time, limited English, or limited transportation, and will use what it learns to plan more effective engagement and revise this policy.

**SUMMARY**

As members of a larger community, we all have a great responsibility to work together to raise happy and healthy students who are well prepared to live life to the fullest. By working alongside students, parents, families, and community members, the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District and De Zavala are committed to: creating a strong partnership built on trust; continuously improving the communication between home and school; maintaining students, parents, families, and community members well informed of important information; and providing school and community events that invite us all to learn and grow together.

This policy was developed jointly with, and agreed on by, parents and family members of students at De Zavala Elementary. It was reviewed and updated for the 2026-2027 school year on September 1, 2026, and will be reviewed each year.