



AISD Department of Early Childhood Learning

Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan 2020-2021

Texas Administrative Code §102.1003 defines family engagement as “*The mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities to build relationships 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.*” (TEA, 2019)

AISD Department of Early Childhood Learning believes an effective family engagement plan develops bridges in collaboration with our families as partners to allow every student to reach full potential. Our goal is to support and involve our families in the educational process, impacting our schools and the community.

TEA has defined six family engagement categories that must be supported within the local family engagement plan. AISD Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan connects the goals and strategies that are utilized to accomplish the plan.

Facilitating Family-to-Family Support
<p>AISD Department of Early Childhood Learning creates a safe environment for families where opportunities for continuous engagement and participation are essential, enabling educational experiences in which families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups through campus/district initiatives such as:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the teacher and Open House events to ensure a welcoming space for families, with opportunities to gather, meet, and build relationships among each other. • Prekindergarten Round-Up events during enrollment and registration process • Academic Family Nights to support interactions among parents to engage in learning experiences that will impact their child education. • Grade Level Orientation Meeting to increase understanding of Prekindergarten curriculum and routines. • Parenting information sessions offered by AISD Parent and Community Engagement Department on topics that will support family communication and social-emotional awareness. • Class field trips to support interaction between families, students, and teachers. • Campus Book Fairs that support parents’ involvement in literacy awareness. • District parents’ volunteering opportunities to support campus initiatives and students’ success. • Toddler Time for parents and children from birth to 3 years old to help families and toddlers get ready for school through activities that interconnect families as partners. • Dads Engaged for Excellence program to encourage dads, uncles, brothers, and other positive male role models to become more active in school and in their students’ education.
Establish a Network of Community Resources
<p>AISD Department of Early Childhood Learning facilitates and builds partnerships with the community to support through shared resources, services, and programs families of prekindergarten students.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AISD Summer Enrichment program • Parent and Teachers Association • Arlington ISD Families • Arlington ISD Parent and Community Engagement • Parent Empowerment Workshops (English) • Parent Empowerment Workshops (Spanish) • Arlington ISD Parent University • Partnership with Faith-Based Organizations and Civic Organizations • AISD Family Resources • AISD Food and Nutrition Services

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus counselor assistance for family guidance and needs • Translation services for families at meetings and campus/district events
Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making
<p>Arlington ISD and Department of Early Childhood Learning increase family participation in decision-making by creating and supporting parents become involved in school-based decision making. Arlington ISD fosters two-way communication between teachers and parents in schools, provides opportunities for families to advocate for their children using effective and promising intervention strategies to increase meaningful parent engagement in school and district-level decision making.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arlington ISD Volunteer program for parents and other family members to join and serve school community, including teachers, students, and parents to promote a positive learning environment. • PTA to collaborate with others and contribute to develop strategies responsive to the campus/district needs. • Report card to share students' academic progress to address questions, seek parents' feedback, and collaborate with parents to build strong foundation for future learning experiences. • Monitoring report card information to seek parents' feedback, questions, and Parent-Teacher conferences • AISD Parent Satisfaction Survey to allow parents to offer input about experiences of their children in school.
Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning
<p>The family plays a direct role in a student's education. AISD Department of Early Childhood Learning believes that families should be equip with tools to enhance and extend learning beyond the school setting. We recognize the families of our students as the first and best teachers in the child's life. In order to equip families with tools to enhance and extend their child's learning, we work with families to support learning at home while strengthening the home/school partnership.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent informational meetings to foster communication, ideas, and strategies to support student's learning at home. • Technology resources to inform families to learn about the school, their child progress, and access to tool to support learning at home. • Arlington ISD Early Childhood Learning webpage that provides parents with Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, registration, programs, and resources. • Parent-Teacher conferences held throughout the school year to collaborate in setting goals for students in the Prekindergarten program. • Extracurricular and curricular events to model academic activities to extend learning at home. • Campus library resources and online links to be used at homes to assist students in learning.
Develop Staff Skills in Evidence Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting their Children's Learning Benchmarks
<p>AISD Department of Early Childhood Learning is committed to develop prekindergarten teachers in early childhood evidence-based practices to support families in meeting their children's learning milestones. Our instructional model contributes to keep building teacher's skills and competencies. Our department seeks and promotes teachers and staff awareness of our culturally and diverse population by developing and supporting cultural relevancy and responsiveness through our school district mission.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Learning Communities to ensure students success and to build strategies for effective communication with families. • Early childhood professional learning opportunities • District training for CLI Engage and Circle Progress Monitoring platforms • Opportunities to attend early childhood conferences • Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) to support teachers in their professional growth.
Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Use Evaluations/Surveys for Continuous Improvement



AISD Department of Early Childhood Learning believes that continuous improvement of family engagement efforts encompasses a commitment to an ongoing process of learning, self-reflection, and growth that will unfold progressively.

- AISD Parent Satisfaction Survey to gain information on program components and gather information of parents' perception of program effectiveness. Findings from this survey are used to create action plans at school and district levels.
- High Quality Pre-Kindergarten Self-Assessment instrument created by TEA to identify strengths, opportunities to grow, and next steps for continuous improvement.