

New Summerfield Independent School District
Family Engagement Plan
2017-2018

Welcoming All Families ~ Supporting Student Success



Hornets ~ Hand in Hand

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OVERVIEW

Family engagement is defined as the *mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement and to 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 supports the whole child and is both culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate. TAC §102.1003

It has long been recognized by both researchers and practitioners that family engagement plays a non-negotiable role in education. Research shows that schools can improve their students' achievement by engaging parents. Parents are the most invested adults in the pathway of their children's education simply because they are their first teachers. They are uniquely positioned to increase the one-to-one instruction that children receive by supplementing it at home, to facilitate attendance by monitoring their children's daily activities, to instill the importance of education and higher education, and more. Therefore, parents play a vital role of the solutions to educational challenges. Unfortunately in many of the school districts, parents are faced each day

with numerous obstacles that create a gap in the involvement of the school and families.
(Liontos, 1992)

The General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 78, was passed by the 85th Texas Legislature, 2017, and signed by Governor Abbott on June 12, 2017. Rider 78 ensures that state-funded prekindergarten programs implement high-quality prekindergarten consistent with the High-Quality Prekindergarten program requirements in Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.167 – 29.171 and consistent with the provisions of TEC Chapters 41 and 42. These requirements include use of a curriculum aligned with the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines, increased prekindergarten teacher training and/or qualifications, implementation of student progress monitoring, program evaluation and development of a family engagement plan.

New Summerfield ISD has developed and implemented this prekindergarten family engagement plan to assist the district in achieving and maintaining high levels of family engagement in prekindergarten and positive family attitudes toward education at the prekindergarten level. This family engagement plan is designed to support six components of family engagement critical to the development of a high quality prekindergarten program.

1. Facilitate family-to-family support.

- NSISD intends to develop parent to parent networks and programs to expand family and parent engagement activities.
- The PTO organization offers on campus family-to family interaction and support revolving around school activities.
- The Family Engagement Specialist, hired through the ACE Program, will provide opportunities to parents to be involved with school activities after school hours such as pep rallies, an Easter Egg Hunt, end of session “showcase” and STAAR night.
- ACE community involvement activities such as exercise classes and craft project nights will be held to support parent-to-parent interaction.

2. Establish a network of family resources.

- The Texas 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant provides the ACE Program for PK-12th grade students.
- Farm to School Initiative - Provides a “Family Soup night” using crops grown on campus; community members can come on the weekend and choose from an array of vegetables grown by our ACE students.
- Southwest Dairy Farmers provides a hands-on presentation.
- Community members and parents can use two computers and wifi that are located in the library and available from 7:30-5:15.
- New Summerfield Elementary has a goal to increase school to home communication by way of FaceBook and bilingual communication from the office so that parents are up to date on their student’s activities and needs.
- Parent Involvement Newsletters are posted on the district’s website.

3. Increase family participation in decision making.

New Summerfield has established a strong foundation of collaboration with parents and community partners. The district offers multiple parent and community involvement opportunities each school year.

- PTO provides an opportunity for parents to make suggestions and be involved in the betterment of our students' education. They also raise money throughout the year to help fund programs, scholarships and activities.
- PTO is in charge of a Fall Festival involving parents to help with food, games and prizes for the community gathering.
- The area Lions Club provides funding for glasses, college scholarships and partners with the school in providing help for the needy such as BackPack meals, Thanksgiving Dinners and Christmas donations.
- Parent involvement is sought out for the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee committee and District Improvement Committee.
- As a Title I, Part A campus, we have a School-Parent Compact that outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students share responsibility for improved student achievement and by what means the school and parents will build and develop a partnership describing how parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility or improved student academic achievement. The School-Parent Compact will be distributed to all Title I parents and families.
- An Annual Title I Parent Meeting will be held providing information regarding federal programs and expenditures, informing parents of the right to be involved.
- Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through surveys and through postings on the district website.

4. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning.

- NSISD will continue to offer HeadStart and a full day Pre-K program to eligible students, enhancing and extending socialization and facilitating parent involvement for HeadStart/PreK parents.
- Parents of HeadStart and Pre-K parents are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom weekly so that they can learn about the curriculum and assessment process as well as interact with students in their learning environment.
- The HeadStart Family Service Worker will offer parent trainings for parents to attend/facilitate throughout the year that focus on nutrition education, health education and parenting skills to enhance knowledge and build self-confidence.
- Parents will be provided frequent reports on student progress. Report cards and school assessment results will be sent home with students the Thursday after the six weeks ends. Progress Reports will be sent out after any other three week period.
- Formal Parent/Teacher Meetings will be held within the first three weeks of school to discuss the state/district expectations for that grade level. Teachers will explain discipline and reward policies and invite parents to volunteer as needed in the classroom.
- Teachers will regularly conference with parents on academic progress and after benchmark testing if needed. Conferences are available to be set up as needed by parents and teachers.
- Federal Report Cards results will be disseminated to parents no later than early March. Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) will be sent to parents. These reports will also be posted on the NSISD website.

5. Provide professional development opportunities for educators on culturally responsive, evidence-based strategies that support the education of the child.

- Campus teachers and paraprofessionals will seek professional development on cultural diversity, parental involvement and poverty as it impacts schools.
- Professional Development will also be encouraged for campus leadership and counselors on topics such as cultural diversity, strategies for low socio-economic populations, behavioral strategies and students experiencing trauma.

6. Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement.

- New Summerfield ISD will use parent/staff surveys to gain information on preferences of programs and parents' perception of program effectiveness. Surveys are completed each spring to gather information to plan for the next school year.
- Comprehensive Needs Assessment - Family engagement efforts will be evaluated on a continuous basis at the district and campus levels to determine whether the level of participation has increased and if activities have met the needs of parents. Programs and activities will be constantly monitored, identifying strengths and weaknesses, in order to make change at the earliest possible date to assure program effectiveness.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

August - Registration; Meet the Teacher; PreK/HeadStart Parent Orientation

September - Teacher/Parent Grade Level meetings to discuss expectations

October - Family Fall Festival - parent volunteers needed to work the games, send candy and cake walk items, cook dinner items;
Six Weeks Awards Celebration; Family Health Clinic

November - Veterans Day Program; Six Weeks Awards Celebration;
Community Thanksgiving Feast

December - Pictures with Santa and Movie night; Classroom Christmas Parties; PTO Christmas Store

January - Six Weeks Awards Celebration

February - ACE Food from the farm; Classroom Valentines parties; Family Book Fair Night; Six Weeks Awards Celebration

March - Classroom Easter activities; ACE Easter Egg Hunt

April - Six Weeks Awards Celebration;

May - Field Day; End of Year Awards Celebration; Kindergarten Transition Meeting for PreK/HeadStart parents