

La Pryor ISD

Pre-Kindergarten

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2021

The Pre-Kinder Family Engagement Plan will be developed as an initiative within La Pryor ISD campuses offering Pre-Kinder services and programs to families.

The purpose of the initiative is to help families and students successfully transition from one learning setting to another.

The core team of the Pre-Kinder Family Engagement Plan will be campus principals, teachers, staff, and district parent engagement coordinator.

The core team will create an initial framework based upon the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the pre-kinder grant.

The Pre-Kinder Family Engagement Plan will be considered a living document and will be annually reviewed and updated as needed. Updated versions of the plan will be presented to campus administrators, staff, campus PTA Council and it will be posted on the district website.

Purpose

The Pre-Kinder Family Engagement Plan was developed to:

- Encourage and Support family engagement by offering quality early care and education, especially as it relates to school readiness, success and transitions from one core grade into another.
- Identify a set of common goals between the campus, parent and student that will help educate and inform families by using strategies and modeling for both school and home use.
- Offer open 2 way communication between schools and parents to ensure a welcoming and respectful atmosphere where families will feel accepted and will enjoy being engaged in their student's educational goals.
 - These forms of open communication can be done in many ways: face to face, written notes, email, campus website, phone blast, social media.

- Support the learning goals found in the Pre-Kinder Grant Application and create a common vision of family engagement and provide families with the resources and trainings needed to sustain the common vision.
- Increase and improve the level of family involvement in our students' education, campuses and provide true community partnership with an active learning environment.

Outcomes to Pre-Kinder Family Engagement Plan

- ✓ Child Outcomes:
 - School Readiness
 - Successful Transitions between grade levels
- ✓ Family Engagement Outcomes:
 - Family Well being
 - Developing of Positive Family and Child Relationships
 - Families as Partners and Lifelong Educators
 - Learning the Child Development Phases and Milestones for Educational Transitioning
 - Connections to Peers, Mentors and Community Resources
 - Learning Communities for Families as Educational Advocates

Family Engagement Plan

1: LPISD is committed to involving families in policy development.

Process:

1. Parents will have an opportunity to discuss and provide input through their campuses pre-kinder classrooms and principal family engagement meetings.
2. Parents will let the campus teachers know what language they prefer their information to be sent home in and parents will notify teachers what form of active communication will work best for them: email, phone call, letter, etc.
3. Parents will be invited to attend program events that offer them opportunities to connect with other families, community resources, give the parents the ability to share goals, interests, and gain support for student success.
4. LPISD Campus pre-kinder parents will develop a parent/school compact as part of its parent engagement plan. This compact will describe how parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.
5. Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through surveys and through postings on the campuses webpage.

6. Cultural, economic, language, and demographic issues will be given attention through the selection of focus groups and advisory councils and committees
7. The school will provide parents of English Language Learners the opportunity to provide input an annual campus meeting.

2: The LPISD Family Engagement Plan includes technical assistance and plan support for effective family engagement.

Process:

1. Parents will be notified of the LPISD Parent Engagement Plan in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand.
2. LPISD campuses will convene an annual parent meeting to inform parents about the school's parent involvement programs and right of parents to be involved.
3. Workshops for parents are scheduled at LPISD campuses throughout the semesters.
4. These workshops will assist parents in better understanding the state standards, local assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with teachers to improve student achievement.
5. LPISD campuses will use the annual Title I meeting to discuss and provide information regarding federal programs and expenditures and to collect feedback from parents.
6. Campus newsletters will be sent home on a regular basis and contain information regarding school programs including report cards, test dates and results, new programming options, and suggestions for parents to become involved in their child's education.
7. The district report card and other key sources of information regarding academic assessment and expected student proficiency levels are linked to the district web site and to each school's web site. Report cards and school assessment results are sent home each 6 weeks.
8. Formal conferences are scheduled twice a year according to policy and anytime as needed by parents and teachers.
9. Curriculum/courses of study may be accessed by a link from the district web site to the state department web site.
10. A computer with access to the internet and email will be made available to parents in the library. Guest access may be obtained by the campus librarian.
11. Parents will be provided opportunities for regular meetings relating to the education of their children and as appropriate participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
12. Title I parent involvement activities will be coordinated with parent involvement activities of other programs such as: Even Start, preschool, and ESL programs.

3: The LPISD Family Engagement Plan supports clearly articulated goals for extent and type of family engagement.

Process:

1. A variety of planned, goal oriented programs will be organized and implemented to engage all parents in their children's education in one or more of the following categories:
 - a. ***parenting*** (strategies to promote effective parenting practices at home)
 - Parent workshops offered by the campus and with the assistance of the district parent involvement coordinator to involve- family health and resource fair, Math Make and Take, Know Your Numbers and Ready Reader programs
 - Defining what parent engagement means to your district and campus?
 - Why does parent engagement matter at your campus?
 - b. ***communicating*** (strategies to promote positive school-home communication)
 - Monthly HEADS UP Newsletter-Region 16, weekly or bi-weekly campus newsletter, daily folders, grade level weekly folders, PTA newsletters, School Phone Messenger System, Social Media, Campus Parent Wall, Emails from Teachers and Campus website.
 - c. ***volunteering*** (opportunities for parents to volunteer or be an audience at school)
 - Individual class volunteers, PTA volunteers, Field Day, Book Fair, Fall Festival, Family Night, PE Challenge, After School Program Volunteers, Child Care Volunteers for Grade Level Parent Meetings, Hall/Cafeteria Monitors, Guest Classroom Readers.
 - d. ***learning at home*** (learning activities to involve parents with students at home)
 - Daily Reading Buddy Bags and Log with grade level Pre-Kindergarten Books, at home coloring and writing books, parents as teachers trainings offered by Pre-Kinder Teachers, Meetings on Grade Level Milestones and Tracking Child Progress.
 - e. ***decision making*** (opportunities to engage in academic decision making, use of Title I funds, and learn advocacy roles for both school and district level)

- Parent surveys, Campus based team representation, PTA Board or member, Parent e-mails, Parent Open House dialogue, parent conferences and parent trainings.

f. *collaborating with the community* (activities/events that foster school-community partnerships)

- Create opportunities for parents to build relationships with community members by offering community forums with different guest speakers on a variety of topics.
- Create a community and health fair.
- Create a resource guide that offers parents community businesses with medical, dental and mental health services.

* (NOTE: the link to student achievement and the importance of providing activities in each of the above categories is derived from Joyce Epstein's research at Johns Hopkins University.)

2. LPISD pre-kinder campuses will offer a flexible number of meetings (*mornings, during lunch, evenings or weekend-depending on family survey results.*)
 - a. Open House and Orientations for what families can expect in Pre-Kinder can be set for the mornings, evenings and afternoons on student half days.
 - b. Parent – Teacher Conferences can be held to meet parent needs or work schedules.
 - c. Parent Meetings/Workshops/Trainings/Events/Region 16-Parent Camp Unconferences-can be held in the morning and/or evening depending on parenting survey results.
3. Reasonable support for parent involvement activities will be provided per parent request (i.e. transportation, interpreter, etc.)
4. To the extent possible, opportunities will be provided for full participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.
5. Surveys, sign-in sheets, sample training materials, invite flyer, pictures and other forms of documentation will be kept on file and reviewed annually to assess parent participation, parent-student-teacher compact and review of planning for the following years school activities and trainings focusing on the above six areas.

4: The LPISD Family Engagement Plan provides for an evaluation process to promote continuous improvement of the engagement of all families.

Process:

1. Annual surveys will be conducted to identify barriers to greater participation; to design more effective strategies, and to revise, if necessary, the parent involvement plan, campus compact and make recommendations for the following academic school year.
 2. Survey results will be analyzed to measure the effectiveness of the plan and to secure input regarding modifications for future practices.
 3. Measurable goals for increasing the level and quality of family involvement are required as part of every school improvement plan.
 4. LPISD will use the Pre-Kinder Grant Application guidelines and the Region 16 Parent Involvement rubric: USDE Frameworks, Region 16-Title I An Administrator's Abbreviated Checklist To ESEA.
5. The LPISD Family Engagement Plan requires family engagement.

Process:

1. La Pryor campuses will develop a Family Engagement Plan and make changes/updates annually. This will be done jointly with parents, agreed upon with parents, distributed to parents, and submitted as an annual update of the plan to the district office.
2. LPISD will conduct an annual parent survey regarding the family practices provided at each Title I and Pre-Kinder campus and submit the survey results to the district office.
3. LPISD will set a goal for family engagement for each major strategy.
4. LPISD will submit their plans to the central office for review and evaluation.

6: The LPISD Family Engagement Plan includes procedures for parents to access and understand course of studies by grade level and curriculum materials, as well as STAAR testing and Local Assessment standards.

Process:

1. The district website will contain a link to the Texas Education Agency State Assessment Department where the state curriculum for each grade level and subject area can be accessed for additional information.
2. Progress indicators on elementary report cards will be aligned with state standards.

3. Information and the Process of textbook adoption will be provided for the parents and community to review.
4. "Resource Centers" will have specific activities and materials set aside for the involvement of families. These can be set-up in the classroom, library, or parent room.
5. The Title I Parent-School Compact and Campus Improvement Plan document (including learning goals and action steps) will be posted on the campus website and a paper copy will be made available at the campus front office.

7: The LPISD Family Engagement Plan encourages the support of district involvement in positive parenting skills.

Process:

1. Parenting workshops will be offered throughout LPISD Title I campuses on a monthly bases.
2. Campuses will search parenting programs that will assist with parent education and engagement.
3. The Parent Resource Center will provide a variety of parenting materials for review and checkout through the campuses library, counseling office, or parent room.
4. Materials and training are provided to help parents work with their children to improve their academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology to foster parental involvement.
5. LPISD, if needed, will recommend students to school tutoring and homework programs, RTI, referrals to SPED services, if needed, for the overall success of the student in staying on track for promotion and grade level achievement.
6. Parents will receive phone calls to confirm student absences and to encourage better student attendance; a letter will be sent home once a student has accrued five unexcused absences; each school should develop attendance incentives.
7. LPISD campuses offer small donated rewards to acknowledge good character and good student behavior.

8: The Family Engagement Plan incorporates family involvement in decision making and governance.

Process:

1. LPISD staff members are friendly towards, respectful of, and helpful to all families.
2. Each LPISD campus will try to have a family representation be a part of the campuses improvement team.

3. LPISD has several ways of listening to parents and engaging them in two-way communication (for example, giving time at Board meetings, holding open forums, Ask the Superintendent-found on the LPISD website, PTA board representation, conferences, grade level meetings and providing ways to give input on the district web site, and campuses improvement plan committees)

9: The LPISD Family Engagement Plan supports professional development to build the capacity for family engagement.

Process:

1. Professional development in the area of family engagement will be provided to all LPISD Title I campus staff members.
2. The LPISD campus staff will be educated in the value and contributions of parents, in working with parents, and in building ties between parents and schools.
3. LPISD families will have opportunities to be included in family engagement training and conference, if funding is available.
4. LPISD Title I campuses will be supported by the district Title I office in planning/implementing family engagement activities for the purpose of improving student achievement and success.

10: The Family Engagement Plan specifies budget and funding for family engagement.

Process:

1. LPISD campuses can access Title I and Pre-Kinder funds to purchase materials needed to adequately maintain, train and provide resources for the implementation of their campuses family engagement program.
2. LPISD's Title I Program, along with the Pre-Kinder Grant, will offer budget support for the commitment to the effective development, implementation, and evaluation of family engagement programs including but not limited to the following:
 - o Campus Spanish interpreter, when needed for trainings, events, and meetings.
 - o Parent Resource Center workshop, materials, and supplies.
 - o Campus newsletters and other publications used to invite parents to events.
 - o Monthly family engagement opportunities.
 - o Staff development aligned with the school improvement plan.

3. The Parent Resource Center will serve as a clearinghouse to gather best practices, ideas, materials, new approaches, research, and other program information in order to help schools improve family involvement programs.
4. LPISD will designate at least 1% of the Title 1 A budget for parent involvement activities.
5. LPISD has a District Parent Liaison, funded through Title I, to facilitate family engagement activities and to serve as resource to families in linking them to community resources and opportunities.

11: The LPISD Family Engagement Plan encourages families and school staff to work together with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Process:

1. Partnerships between schools and community organizations will be encouraged; including but not limited to La Pryor Fire and Police Department, La Pryor ISD Food Service, area food pantries and churches.
2. Parent involvement strategies are coordinated with parent involvement strategies of other programs, such as Head Start, TEA, Region 16 and Area School Districts.
3. LP ISD's parent involvement plan is made available to the local community and updated to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.