

**Rising Star ISD**  
**Family Engagement Plan**  
**2018-2019**

The family engagement plan shall create a foundation for the collaboration of families, school, and community in building relationships that support student learning and achievement, family well being, and the continuous development of children, families, and educators.

**The family engagement plan shall facilitate family to family support using strategies such as:**

1. Creating a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups.
2. Ensuring opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families.
  - Having a Meet the Teacher time the week before school starts to give parents the opportunity to get to know one another and their child's teacher.
  - Encouraging bilingual family members and staff to translate for new parents.
  - Hosting events that bring families together such as an award program each six weeks, Thanksgiving Feast, PTO Family Fun Night, Field Day, Sixth Grade Celebration.

**The family engagement plan shall establish a network of community resources such as:**

1. Building strategic partnerships through the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), the Site Based Committee (SBC), the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), and the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC).
2. Establishing and maintaining partnerships with businesses, faith based organizations, and community resources.
  - Encouraging parent participation in Parent Teacher Organization as member, volunteer, or officer.
  - Providing written information on community resources ( Helping Hands, Open Door, Crime Victims Assistance Center, resale shops, social service organizations.

**The family engagement plan shall increase family participation in decision making using strategies such as:**

1. Developing and implementing goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement.
2. Collaborating with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers.
  - Creating an environment that affirms parent leadership
  - Using a questionnaire at the beginning of school so that teachers can learn about their students from the parent's perspective and begin mutual goal setting with individual families.

**The family engagement plan shall equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning using strategies such as:**

1. Providing families with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities.
2. Utilizing weekly newsletter to share information on upcoming school and community events
  - Providing workshops for parents that focus on common child development topics such as health, child guidance, how the child learns.
  - Using family friendly technology to enhance parents knowledge on child development topics.

**The family engagement plan shall develop staff skills in evidence based practices that help families meet the children's learning benchmarks using strategies such as:**

1. Promoting and developing family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff.
  - Providing professional development that is effective in developing skills in working with with families.
  - Providing professional development focused on professional ethics as it relates to family engagement ( boundaries, confidentiality)

**The family engagement plan shall evaluate family engagement efforts for continuous improvement using strategies such as:**

1. Using data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and promote family engagement.
  - Setting child-centered goals with parents at the beginning of the school year and follow up with progress checks.
  - Surveying parents annually on the effectiveness of the PreKindergarten experience.