

Elkhart Elementary Family Involvement Plan 2018-2019

School: Elkhart Elementary School
301 East Parker Street
Elkhart, Texas 75839

District: Elkhart I.S.D.

Principal: Tana Herring

Grade Levels: Pre-K through 2nd grade

Enrollment: 331

Title 1 Campus-wide

Parental Involvement Committee:

Ileaine Cline- Teacher

Dianna Homann- Teacher

Heather Lively- Instructional Assistant

Amber Nolen- Instructional Assistant

Rhonda Jordan- Instructional Assistant

Meggan Goede- Teacher

According to TEA, the goal of TAC §102.1003, (Texas Administrative Code) a High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program, is to “provide districts with an opportunity to expand or enhance high-quality prekindergarten programs for qualifying students.” This ruling also outlines school district and charter school eligibility for grant funding and qualifications for students eligible to receive instruction under the grant program. The new High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program requires school districts and charter schools to meet the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines (updated 2015).

The proposal also identifies in rule the family engagement strategies that districts and charter schools are required to address in a Family Engagement Plan in order to be eligible to receive grant funding under this program. TEA has identified six family engagement strategies which must be incorporated into the local Family Engagement Plan.

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.

ELKHART ELEMENTARY FAMILY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

1. Facilitate family-to-family support.

- Elkhart Elementary has identified this as a need and wants to establish more opportunities for parent-to-parent training and parent-to-parent support.
- Elkhart Elementary intends to develop parent- to -parent networks and programs to expand family and parent engagement activities with qualified volunteers.
- Elkhart Elementary has accomplished positive outcomes on a small scale through our Character Education program and “The Giving Tree” Project.
- WatchD.O.G. Dads at the Elementary campus will be continued and expanded offering a unique opportunity for fathers to interact and support their children.
- The Elementary library offers opportunities for families to visit after hours and during school hours when Scholastic Book Fair is offered. An opportunity to volunteer during these times is also provided to all parents.
- Information of literacy programs which are internet-based are given to all parents, as well as any log-in information needed to check grades, attendance, and other program information used at the elementary campus, to foster family-to-family support.

2. Establish a network of family resources.

- Elkhart Elementary intends to use funding from the High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program to foster and increase community connections and resources.
- Elkhart Elementary has a goal of establishing opportunities for parents to visit the campus and participate in activities scheduled primarily for parent involvement. The Pre-K “Parent Room” offers a library for books to be loaned to parents, focusing on literacy. The Response to Intervention classroom offers games and books for loan, including books with audio assistance.

3. Increase family participation in decision-making.

- Elkhart Elementary has established a strong foundation of collaboration with parents and community partners. The elementary offers multiple parent and community involvement opportunities each school year including: Family literacy events, Parent workshops; Head Start Program housed within the campus
 - Parents are provided an opportunity to discuss school issues and provide input through the campus site-based committee; monthly Head Start parent meetings provide opportunities for leadership roles and training; Title 1 meetings offer parents opportunities to share ideas and thoughts; Parent report card conferences are offered twice yearly; Parent orientation meetings are held at the beginning of each school year, along with transition meetings from grade level to grade level.

- The Site-based Committee boasts community leaders and parents as active and participating members. These meetings are also well attended and allow parents a voice in local education decision-making.
- Parents will be represented on Campus Advisory Committee and will be involved in the writing of the Campus Improvement Plan. (first 12 weeks of school)
- Elkhart Elementary will consult with parents and families to jointly develop/revise, agree upon and distribute the Campus Parental Involvement Policies. (first 12 weeks of school)
- Our Title I, Part A campus has 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 for improved student academic achievement. The School-Parent Compact will be distributed to all Title I parents and families. (first 12 weeks of school)
- Title I campuses will host an Annual Title I Parent Meeting providing information regarding federal programs and expenditures, informing parents of their right to be involved, and explaining the reservation of funds for parental involvement and the parents' role in giving input into use of funds. (first 12 weeks of school)
- Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through surveys and through postings on the district's website.
- Elkhart Elementary has a goal of increasing attendance at parent meetings and family events with a focus on first time attendees and parents of at-risk students.
- Refreshments/snacks, drinks and door prizes will be offered at parent meetings for parent convenience and to promote attendance.

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

- Elkhart Elementary will continue to offer full day Pre-K to eligible students, enhancing and extending socialization and facilitating parent involvement for Pre-K parents.

High-Quality Prekindergarten funds will be used to increase family engagement efforts by providing parent training in the Pre-K curriculum and assessment process, technology assistance to access electronic reports specific to their child, early literacy, and child advocacy.

- Elkhart Elementary will expand Pre-K family engagement opportunities through this grant so that Pre-K parent participation is increased by 50%. Parent engagement topics could include:
 - understanding State standards, curriculum as well as assessment,
 - local EISD assessments,
 - how to monitor child's progress and work with teachers to improve student achievement,
 - parenting classes - behavior management and parent literacy.

- Program suggestions specific to Pre-Kinder from parents and staff include:
 - Special Pre-K “Meet the Teacher Night,”
 - Parent-teacher conferences with Pre-K parents,
 - Pre-K “Boot Camp” establishing Kindergarten expectations
 - “Fishing with Dad” field trip, targeting father involvement
 - Pre-K Pow-Wow
 - Restaurant Experience field trip
 - End of Year Program

- Each classroom will publish a school newsletter, available in digital format, to keep parents informed of important information including progress reports, report cards, test results, new programming options, and suggestions for parents to become involved in their child’s education.

- A monthly calendar and newsletter will be published at the campus which will include a calendar of events along with other pertinent parent and family information.

- Curriculum /courses of study may be accessed by a link from the EISD website.

- Parents will be notified of their right to request and receive information regarding the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teachers. (Parent/Student Handbook)

- Written notice will be provided to a parent or guardian of each student in the classroom in which an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher is assigned for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during a school year. (Parent/Student Handbook)

- Information will be provided to parents in a format and language they understand. All parent communication will be offered in English and Spanish.

- Elkhart Elementary utilizes Remind, an automated texting/email notification system. An automatic call is made to parents when a child is absent through School Messenger. ZippSlip is used to make sure all families are notified of any and all events as well as any announcements.

- Parents will be provided frequent reports on student progress. Report cards and school assessment results are sent home each 6 weeks and at the end of each semester. Progress reports are sent home mid- 6 weeks.

- Parents will be provided information about the level of achievement of the child in each of the required state academic assessments in the final report card or as soon as practicable.

- * Federal Report Cards results will be disseminated to parents, no later than early March. Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR) will be disseminated to parents. These reports will also be posted on the EISD website for public access. School-parent compacts are discussed during the conferences held with staff by assignment or by request from parents. Conferences are available anytime as needed by parents or teachers. An appointment may be made by contacting the teacher directly or calling the school office.

- Title I parent involvement activities will be coordinated with parent involvement activities of other programs. Multiple family engagement activities will be offered at each campus throughout the school year. These activities will be documented by sign-in, agenda, and minutes (as appropriate) and filed

- Enrolling students will complete the Home Language Survey.

- EISD will provide outreach to parents and families of LEP/Immigrant students and inform them how they can be involved in the education of their children and assist their children attain English proficiency, not later than 20 days after the beginning of the school year or within the first two weeks of the child being placed in a language instruction program when the child was not identified prior to the beginning of the school year.

- EISD will promote parental and community participation in programs for LEP, Title III, Part A.

- Parents and families of LEP/Immigrant students will be notified within 30 days if EISD fails to meet annual measurable achievement objectives.

- The LEA Homeless Liaison will inform parents/guardians of homeless students of the educational opportunities and other services available to the child (Identification of homeless students usually occurs at registration but can occur at any time during the school year as family situations change).

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

- Pre-K teachers' staff development plans will include strands on cultural diversity, evidence-based strategies to involve parents in the education of their children, and family poverty as it impacts schools. One cannot assume that teachers or parents come to the table with a knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity or with the skills needed to customize learning to students with diverse cultural backgrounds. These skills can and must be taught, monitored, and reinforced.

- Elkhart Elementary staff will be educated in the value and utility of the contributions of parents, and in building ties between parents and schools. Elkhart families will also have opportunities to be included in family engagement training. (first 12 weeks of school)

- Professional development will be provided for counselors and social workers including, but not limited to, 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.

- Elkhart Elementary currently uses parent 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. Several additional campus-specific surveys are fielded each year depending on campus needs. Valuable information gathered from family surveys is used to improve programs and increase parent outreach and involvement.

- Elkhart Elementary will conduct an annual evaluation and review of the content of and effectiveness of the Title I, Part A Parent Involvement Program and Parental Involvement Policy. Parents and families will be involved in this review, aimed at improving the academic quality of Title I, Part A Schools.

- 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 meet the needs of parents. Programs and activities will be constantly monitored, identifying strengths and weaknesses, in order to affect change at the earliest possible date to assure program effectiveness.

- Parents and families will be consulted in the development, review/revision, and evaluation of the Campus Improvement Plans at the end of each school year in order to address needs and goals for the upcoming school year.