

Everman ISD
Pre-Kindergarten Parent & Family Engagement Plan

The Mission of Everman ISD

Everman ISD, in partnership with parents and the community, will provide innovative instructional programs for students to inspire a passion for lifelong learning, to develop responsibility and character and to achieve academic excellence and college readiness enabling them to compete in an ever-changing global community.

Goals of Our Program

1. Facilitate family-to-family support:

EISD will create safe and respectful environments where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups; invite former families and community members to share education and career experiences with current families; and ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families such as training on family leadership.

Strategies Include:

- The addition of an Early Childhood Family Engagement Designee to help plan and implement parent engagement events and activities
- Holding special family events for families with like-backgrounds to collaborate and build relationships - For example, a Veteran's Day program that is planned by Powell staff and families, including veteran families, that facilitates collaboration and relationship building.
- Workshops and training opportunities for families in response to their feedback (send surveys to parents to get feedback on topics they would like covered at Parent Cafe's).
- Hosting a "Back To School" Night for families during the first week of school to get to know one another on an informal basis (start the event with all families in the cafeteria, provide opportunity for introductions and "ice-breakers", ask parents if they want to sign up to be in a parent directory).
- Providing a welcoming space for parents to gather and talk informally with one another before, during, and after the school day

2. Establish a network of community resources:

EISD will build strategic partnerships, utilize community resources, monitor and evaluate policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways; establish and maintain partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies; partner with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings; providing and facilitating referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs; communicating short and long term program goals to all stakeholders; and identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language.

Strategies Include:

- Providing up-to-date written and digital information on community resources (Does this happen through the counselor? For example, GED programs, community health organizations, recreational and social service organizations.)
- Encouraging staff to build relationships with workers in community programs to enhance the effectiveness of referrals (Counselor (or community resource designee reaches out to community programs to establish a partnership).

- Encourage staff to participate in community events/meetings that enhance the program's ability to meet family needs
- Link families with support systems, bilingual translators, and various resources depending on family needs
- Creating a family-friendly Pre-K orientation event and a PreK to Kindergarten transition plan/event.
- Increase social media usage to include information about community resources and opportunities

3. Increasing opportunity for family participation in decision-making for the improvement of the school:

EISD will develop, adopt, and implement identified goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement; develop and support leadership skills for family members and provide opportunities for families to advocate for their children; collaborate with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers; engage families in shaping program activities and cultivating the expectations that information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication; develop with families clearly identified goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress; provide each family with the opportunity to review and provide input on program practices, policies, communications, and events in order to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of families; and use appropriate tools, such as surveys or focus groups, to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan.

Strategies Include:

- Holding parent-teacher conferences to discuss child progress using the Circle Progress Family Observation Form
- Using surveys, town hall meetings, and focus groups to gather family feedback regularly
- Establish and encourage participation in PTA
- Providing trainings for families on how to advocate for themselves and their child(ren)
- Educate families about their rights under State & Federal Law
- Using parents as equal partners with staff in reviewing policies and making decisions for continuous school improvement
- Encouraging parent involvement on the SBDM committee

4. Equip families with the tools to enhance and extend learning to the home:

EISD will provide families with educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership; offering opportunities for families and children to visit the school in advance of the pre-kindergarten school year; providing printed and digital materials for families to engage in at home with children through newsletters, social media, conferences, and/or school events; providing families with information, best practices, and training related to age-appropriate developmental expectations; and collaborating with families to appropriately respond to the needs of their children.

Strategies Include:

- Sending home a monthly newsletter with activities that correspond with the activities done in the classroom

- Utilizing a parent bulletin board to share information about upcoming school and community events and to focus on a monthly child development topic
- Providing complimentary materials to engage in developmentally appropriate activities in the home
- Hosting family education nights open to all families with activities for both adults and children of varying ages
- Conferencing with parents at least three times during the school year
- Using technology that is family-friendly such as Social Media, CLI Engage, and Remind 101

5. Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children’s learning benchmarks:

EISD will provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis; promote and develop family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff; and develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, relevant, and responsive strategies.

Strategies Include:

- Ongoing professional development for staff in the areas of cultural responsiveness and how to connect with families (Minimum BOY and MOY)
- Brainstorming ways to interact and enhance communication with parents during staff meetings
- Providing training for staff on how to respond to families that are in crisis
- Training educators about the resources that are available in the community that support families interests and needs
- Train staff on approaching parents as equal partners in their child’s education while emphasizing parents as the child’s first teacher
- Making a space for staff to meet with parents privately
- Design and implement a staff training for play-based learning at home

6. Annually evaluate the school’s family engagement efforts and plan for continuous improvement:

EISD will develop a system to monitor family engagement and focus on the engagement of targeted groups to narrow the achievement gap; use data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement; ensure an evaluation plan is the initial component that guides action; use annual evaluation results for continuous improvement of the school; and ensure teachers play a role in the family engagement evaluation process.

Strategies Include:

- Sending surveys to families and staff regularly
- Collecting participation data from family events
- Ensuring that parents are encouraged to share their feedback about school improvement
- Invite parents to the annual Title I and Family Engagement Policy Review/Revision meetings
- The Family Engagement Program is evaluated annually as part of the campus need’s assessment process.