



College Station Independent School District
EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES
"Growing Together Toward Tomorrow"

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

College Station ISD Early Education Services believe that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. The Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten programs understand that the essential triad of child, family and community make up the critical components for the development and success of all young learners. The Family Engagement plan, legislated by both the Head Start Act of 2007 and the 2015 Texas Legislature, serves as a foundation for young children in CSISD as they enter school and begin their pathway to "success...each life, each day, each hour".

Philosophy:

- * Families are the most important teachers for their children and provide expert knowledge of their child, his/her development and strategies that work well with their own child and in their family.
- * Staff will work together to provide a safe and positive environment to welcome each family's participation, support and inquiries.

Strategies for Positive Relationships:

- * Providing information in a logical and appropriate format for every family, regardless of language, culture or ability
- * Maintaining consistent and positive communication with parents and family members
- * Inviting families to partner with staff in learning opportunities and shared experiences
- * Creating a culture of encouragement and care to ensure that family needs for resources, information or support are met quickly, confidentially and with compassion
- * Seeking input, ideas and feedback from families before, during and after events and activities

Opportunities for Engagement:

Family Partnership:

Family Engagement Goal:

- **Facilitate family-to-family support**
- **Establish a network of community resources**

Family Services Facilitators offer opportunities for personalized home visits, parent meetings, community connections and written partnership to support individual family needs, build community among campus groups and create links to other local agencies and organizations that are available for families.

Governance/Leadership:

Family Engagement Goal:

- **Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement**
- **Increase family participation in decision-making**
- **Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement**

Parent Campus Committee, Head Start Policy Council, Administrative Committees; District Committees; Parent Surveys; Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

Health: Head Start Health Advisory Committee; School Health Advisory Committee; Meals with child; Outdoor Centers and participation in outdoor learning activities; Classes dealing with child health; family nutrition, healthy activities and related topics

Education:

Family Engagement Goal:

- **Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning**

Classroom Volunteer; Field Trip attendance; Sharing talents, culture or skills with class; Read to Me books; Questions of the Week; Barnes & Noble Literacy Night; Parent Conferences, Home Visits; Schoology; CLI Engage Parent Resources; Parent-child classroom meetings for math, art, etc.

Program Events: Orientation/Meet the Teacher event; Soccer (spring); Family Fun and Field Day; Transition events; End of Year Celebration; Father Focus Group

Campus Events: Math/Science Night; Movie Night; Sing-a-Long; Morning Assembly; Book Fair; Spirit Night at community restaurants; Conscious Discipline Parent Night; Family Fun Night; WATCH D.O.G.S.

Support for Staff:

Family Engagement Goal:

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

Providing ongoing support for staff is accomplished through on-site professional development, conference opportunities and targeted multi-disciplinary discussions.

Summary:

Working together with parents and other family members is a hallmark of a quality early education program. Maintaining positive relationships with families, offering multiple opportunities for partnership and meeting needs as they arise support great work with families. CSISD Early Education Services is committed to providing both quality education for young learners and quality partnership for their parents as we “grow together toward tomorrow”.