



## Austin ISD Pre-kindergarten Family Engagement Plan

The Austin Independent School District Pre-kindergarten Family Engagement Plan is a road map for how families and teachers can be engaged in partnership in the child’s education. It is a living document to be reviewed and updated annually. Title I (the largest federal program for assisting education) requires that each school meet certain requirements for family engagement and that the school have a “parent involvement (engagement) policy,” jointly developed with, and approved by, the parents/families of the school, that outlines how each of the involvement/engagement requirements will be carried out. The Austin Independent School District Family Engagement Plan was developed with the intention of maximizing the positive impact of full family engagement for the academic success of all students enrolled in our district’s Pre-Kindergarten program.

Goal	Strategy
Facilitate and establish a welcoming school environment that is linked to strengthening family-to-family support	<p>Austin ISD strives to always create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bring familiar staff from home campus to events</li> <li>● Presentations are in parent’s language</li> <li>● Parents are encouraged to report back what they learn to their home campus</li> <li>● Time is allocated for parent voices to be heard</li> <li>● PSS will deliver parent education and life skills workshops using a School and Family partnership model.</li> <li>● Designate a Welcoming Center for parents/families</li> </ul>
Establish a network of community resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● build strategic partnerships;</li> <li>● leverage community resources;</li> <li>● monitor and evaluating policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways;</li> <li>● establish and maintain partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies;</li> <li>● identify support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers;</li> <li>● partner with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings;</li> <li>● provide and facilitating referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs;</li> <li>● communicate short- and long-term program goals to all stakeholders; and</li> <li>● identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language;</li> <li>● Austin ISD will partner with the United Way to share resources and support families in coordination with the Austin/Travis County 2-Generation Strategic Plan <a href="https://www.unitedwayaustin.org/2gen2018/">https://www.unitedwayaustin.org/2gen2018/</a></li> </ul>

<p>Increase family participation in decision-making</p>	<p>Tools such as surveys and/or focus groups will be used to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan.</p> <p>Caregivers will have multiple formal opportunities to provide feedback to the Austin ISD concerning remote learning instruction. This feedback will directly inform remote instructional practices for the 2020-2021 school year.</p>
<p>Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning</p>	<p>Teachers will have a family visit in which they meet with families before children start school. The visit occurs in the classroom with each individual family. This visit is the foundation for building relationships with parents and it supports the child with the transition to school. Teacher have the option to engage in home visiting with families in lieu of campus visits.</p> <p>The 2020-2021 school year has presented numerous daily family engagement opportunities for early childhood educators to partner, meet and connect with caregivers regularly to support students remote and in person learning experiences.</p> <p><a href="#">TEA Parent Guides</a> for PK3 and PK4 were shared with families in our remote learning Blend Blueprint course</p>
<p>Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children’s learning benchmarks</p>	<p>Provide ongoing family engagement training opportunities to teachers of 3 and 4-year old PK students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All PK teachers will receive strategies and ideas for engaging families at the professional development.</li> </ul> <p>Provide ongoing family engagement training opportunities to Parent Support Specialists (PSS).</p> <p>Provide teachers/PSS with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Safe Place, family tree, mindfulness- connection to parents (at PK4 modules as well as with PSS)</li> </ul> <p>Provide professional development for teachers/PSS in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis.</p> <p>Promote and develop family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff.</p> <p>Develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies.</p> <p>Provide teachers/PSS with information and/or training on collaborating with families to appropriately respond to children’s behavior in a non-punitive, positive, and supportive way.</p>

Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement	AISD will continue to work with the AISD research and evaluation department to recollect, analysis and evaluate data. PSS use evaluation forms will be given at each family meeting and data will be collected to evaluate family engagement efforts such as campus family days, parent conferences, use of Ready Rosie, district family engagement activities, etc. The research and evaluation team, local campus team and PSS will monitor family engagement efforts. The data will be used to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals. The AISD family engagement core team will work together to promote continuous family engagement.