



Austin ISD Pre-K Family Engagement Plan

The Austin ISD Pre-K Family Engagement Plan is a road map for how families and teachers engage as partners in each 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 spells out how each of the involvement/engagement requirements will be carried out. The Austin ISD Family Engagement Plan was developed with the intention of unleashing the positive effect of full family engagement for the academic success of all students enrolled in our district’s Pre-K program.

Goal	Strategy
<p>Facilitate and establish a welcoming school environment that is linked to strengthening family-to-family support</p>	<p>Austin ISD strives to always create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other. Families are encouraged to turn around training on their home campus in order to build their leadership skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Parent Support Specialist (PSS) at each campus (Title I ONLY) will deliver parent education and life skills workshops using a School and Family partnership model. ● Non-Title I campuses will provide families information on events at other campuses and community events that support their education and life skills. ● During trainings, space is always created for parent voices to be heard ● Presentations provided at the campus should be in the parent’s native/home language ● Designate a Welcoming Space for parents/families
<p>Establish a network of community resources</p>	<p>Austin ISD continues to participate in and partner with the United Way’s Collective Impact strategies to develop and sustain a Austin/Travis County Strategic Plan. The Early Learning Director sits on the Early Childhood Council for the City of Austin as well as the Success by Six Council led by United Way.</p> <p>In order to best service children and their families, Austin ISD Early Learning department will engage in the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build strategic partnerships; ● Leveraging community resources; ● Monitoring and evaluating policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways; ● Establish and maintain partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies; ● Identify support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers; ● Partner with local community-based organizations to create a family- friendly transition plan for students arriving from other early learning settings outside of Austin ISD ; ● Provide and facilitate referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communicate short- and long-term program goals to all stakeholders; and ● identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language.
<p>Increase family participation in decision making</p>	<p>The AISD High Quality family engagement core team (EC, PSO) will work to recruit and develop a PK Family Advisory Council (FAC) made up of Pre-K families from across the district. The purpose of the Pre-K Family Advisory council will be to develop and support leadership skills for family members and provide opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families. The FAC will also be an opportunity to collaborate with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers.</p> <p>Tools such as surveys and/or focus groups will be used to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan.</p>
<p>Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning</p>	<p>Certain Early Learning programs require teachers to 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. Overall teachers always have the option to engage in home visiting with families in lieu of campus visits.</p> <p>Two parent conferences are held during the year (Fall and Spring). Parent Conferences are used to provide parents with information regarding their child’s progress at school and provide families with complementary home learning activities.</p> <p>Share E3 Alliance School Readiness Parent Guide with families upon enrollment</p> <p>Share the TEA Parent Guides for Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 with families at the spring conference</p>
<p>Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children’s learning benchmarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Offer family engagement training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All Pre-K teachers will receive strategies and ideas for engaging families through Early Learning Newsletters and resources on our internal teacher resource page and we offer an optional professional development as needed. ● Support family engagement training with regards to PreK components for all PSS staff annually ● Provide teachers/PSS with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe Place, family tree, mindfulness- connection to parents



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	<p>(at Pre-K4 modules as well as with PSSes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Offer professional development for teachers/PSS in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All Pre-K4 teachers and PSSes are trained on Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) by the corresponding SEL or TBRI department as needed.○ Will also train ACPTA● Promote and develop family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Parent Conferences (twice a year)● Develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cultural Proficiency Training is led and maintained by the SEL and CPI department who offers ongoing professional learning for all AISD teachers.● 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</p>	<p>AISD will continue to work with the AISD research and evaluation department to recollect, analyze and evaluate data. PSS’s 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 CLI Engage (student assessment) family activities, district family engagement activities, etc. The research and evaluation team, local campus team and PSSes 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.</p>