

McLean Independent School District

High-Quality Prekindergarten Components: Family Engagement

Family engagement is the mutual responsibility of families, school, and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement and to support family well-being and the continuous learning and development of children, families, and educators. Family engagement is fully integrated in the child’s educational experience and supports the whole child and is both culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate

A. Facilitate family-to-family support:	Strategies	Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a welcoming environment where families can informally meet • Having a “Meet & Greet” time during the first week of school • Inviting former program participants to share with current families • Encouraging informal gatherings, e.g. carnivals, family fun nights, etc. • Organizing communication assistance, such as translation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Meet the Teacher *Open House *Pre-K Roundup for incoming students *DIP/CIP Plan – current and past family members *PTO *Parent/Teacher Conference *Title I Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Parent Attendance at school functions

B. Establish a Network of Community Resources:	Strategies	Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a Community Resource Handbook • Assisting families in getting and using a library card • Facilitating referrals for needed services • Providing written information on available resources • Having a different community resource visit the prekindergarten program periodically, giving the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Angel Tree *Church donation of backpacks and supplies *School Counselor Support *Fire Department – safety promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part. numbers Attendance Donations

families the opportunity to interact with resources more conveniently

- *Ice Cream Stand - donation
- *Lemonade Stand- fundraiser
- *Child Nutrition Information

C. Increase family Participation in Decision Making:	Strategies	Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a family advisory group • Supporting leadership and advocacy skills • Presenting opportunities to provide input and feedback on key events • Identifying families who can represent prekindergarten at various school functions • Inviting parents as participants in the development of continuous improvement plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Parent Survey *Parent-Teacher Conference *Classroom celebrations *Student work displayed *DIP/CIP meet three times per year *Progress Monitoring *Report Cards *Title I Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Parent attendance *Parent participation

D. Equip Families with Tools to Enhance & Extend Learning:	Strategies	Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing families with information related to age-appropriate developmental expectations • Equipping families with resources and skills to create a home learning environment • Encouraging families' participation in the classroom • Promoting the use of family-friendly technology that supports home learning • Providing workshops focused on early childhood topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Pre-enrollment dates *Student progress reports *Student Handbooks *Library Check-out *Family Night *Parent/Teacher Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Parent attendance

E. Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting their Children's Learning Benchmarks:	Strategies	Data
--	-------------------	-------------

1. Providing professional development:

- ✓ a strengths-based approach to family engagement
- ✓ professional ethics (confidentiality, boundaries, etc.)
- ✓ interaction with parents (cultural and linguistic responsiveness)
- ✓ respecting parenting practices
- ✓ common responses to children's behavior
- ✓ how culture relates to child-rearing perspectives
- ✓ supporting a family in crisis
- ✓ available community resources that support family needs

- *District provided professional development on culturally responsive family engagement
- *Interpreter available
- *Classroom Management Plan

- *Staff sign in sheet

F. Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Using Evaluations for Continuous Improvement:	Strategies	Data
--	-------------------	-------------

- Collaborative goal-setting with parents/guardians
- Use of surveys
- Incorporating family engagement into district's existing improvement plans
- Use of research-based tools to assess effectiveness of family engagement

- *Home Visits
- *End of Year Parent Survey
- *Campus data on subpopulation
- *Parent Survey

- *Log sheets
- *Sign in sheets
- *Participation
- *Assessment results