

Brownwood ISD

2023-2024 Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan

Brownwood Independent School District (BISD) believes that parental involvement is pivotal to our students' success. Beginning in prekindergarten, our district and campus administrators, teachers and other staff strive daily to facilitate relationships with students and their families that create an environment where children can thrive.

The Texas Administrative Code Rule §102.1003 defines family engagement as, "The mutual responsibility of families, schools, 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."

At the district and campus levels, our missions and goals include family engagement. In our BISD Parent Involvement Policy, we encourage opportunities for parents to be involved such as encouraging children to prioritize their education, hold children accountable for completing schoolwork, familiarizing themselves with school-related events and activities, communicating with staff regarding opportunities available, monitoring academic progress, contacting campus personnel when needed, volunteering, serving on planning committees, attending or watching board meetings, registering students through online registration and registering for School Messenger to stay up-to-date on current district and campus activities.

Additionally, our district and campuses prioritize building relationships by planning family engagement events, scheduling conferences regarding student achievement, providing avenues by which families can serve through Parent-Teacher Organizations and other volunteer capacities, and maintaining open lines of communication between home and school with reference to available opportunities, behavioral and academic concerns, accomplishments, etc.

The following BISD Family Engagement Plan identifies specific ways by which we will address the previously mentioned Commissioner's Rule (§102.1003), including strategies for these six components:

1. Facilitating family-to-family support
2. Establishing a network of community resources
3. Increasing family participation in decision making using strategies
4. Equipping families with tools to enhance and extend learning
5. Developing staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmark
6. Evaluating family engagement efforts and using evaluations for continuous improvement

1. Facilitate Family-to-Family Support

The BISD Prekindergarten Program will create a safe and respectful environment to ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events where families can learn from each other and social events to connect with one another such as:

- Meet the Teacher
- Family Book Fair Events
- Movie Night
- Special Events (Field Day, field trips, class parties, etc.)
- Thanksgiving Feast
- Grandparents' Day Lunch
- Veteran's Day program
- Christmas program
- General music programs
- Math and Literacy Family Nights
- District and campus Facebook pages
- School Board meetings with student recognitions and performances

2. Establish a Network of Community Resources

The BISD Prekindergarten Program will collaborate and identify support from and establish partnerships with community businesses and organizations using the following:

- Fundraising events
- Local business donations and business relationships
- Designated staff translators
- WatchDOGS
- Parent volunteer organizations
- Mentor program
- Food for Thought program
- Local food pantry drives
- Social services resources from counselors, Family Resource Center, etc.

3. Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making

The BISD Prekindergarten Program will encourage family engagement and participation in decision making to support and impact positive achievement through the following opportunities:

- Site-Based Decision Committee Meetings
- Family surveys
- District and campus Facebook pages
- Parent-teacher-administrator conferences
- Phone contact
- E-mail
- Home-School Compacts
- School Messenger
- PTO

4. Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning

The BISD Prekindergarten Program will provide opportunities for two-way communication between parents and school to enhance learning using these strategies:

- **Social media**
- **Parent conferences**
- **Home-School Compacts**
- **Take-Home Folders**
- **Class Dojo**
- **Email**
- **Phone calls**
- **Meet the Teacher**
- **Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Roundup**

5. Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting their Children's Learning Benchmarks.

The BISD Prekindergarten Program will emphasize awareness of parental involvement and promote family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff through:

- **CIRCLE assessments and training**
- **Prekindergarten PD at Region Center**
- **Social-Emotional Learning PD**
- **T-TESS Training**
- **Conscious Discipline training**
- **PAX Training**
- **Vector Training**
- **Family Resource awareness training**

6. Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Using Evaluations for Continuous Improvement

The BISD Prekindergarten Program will use the following data sources to ensure alignment between family engagement activities, school teaching and learning goals:

- **Records of family event participation**
- **Communication logs**
- **Surveys**
- **Take-Home Folder signatures**
- **Parent Conference documentation**
- **Program evaluation tools such as the Family Engagement Plan High-Quality Checklist and High-Quality Prekindergarten Self-Assessment**

Family engagement is crucial to the success of students in Brownwood ISD. This Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan will help our BISD community forge relationships that reflect the overall vision and mission of our district and campuses, promote respectful and trustworthy collaboration between schools and families that lead to positive outcomes for our students, and encourage participation in the opportunities available to them.