

# Family Engagement Plan

Early Childhood Department

**ROCKWALL ISD**

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# Family Engagement Plan

## Early Childhood Department

The Rockwall Early Childhood Department, in accordance with the High-Quality Pre-K Grant guidelines and HB 4, will create a partnership between our families, schools and community for the successful transition into kindergarten. We feel “Together is Better” is the most effective way to promote a culture of learning that is child-centered and family driven.

Family engagement is defined as the mutual responsibilities of families, schools and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement and to support family well-being and continuous learning and development of children, families and educators.

The family engagement plan shall include the following components:

Six Components of the Pre-K Family Engagement Plan	Evidence of Pre-K Family Engagement Plan in RISD
1. Facilitate Family-to-Family Support	<p>Pre-K teachers and teacher assistants will provide parents with opportunities to participate in district and campus initiatives such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten Round Up</li> <li>• Participate on the Early Childhood Parent Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Participate on the Campus Improvement Committee</li> <li>• Attend Parent Nights</li> <li>• Home Visits</li> <li>• Head Start Services</li> <li>• Join Parent Teacher Association</li> <li>• Campus Family Nights</li> <li>• District Parent Education Nights</li> </ul>
2. Establish a Network of Community Resources	<p>RISD partners with local service agencies to help provide additional support to our families and have access to social workers that may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referrals to local agencies such as Helping Hands, Women in Need</li> <li>• School Nurse can provide additional resources such as a referral for glasses or other screenings as needed</li> <li>• Use of translators reflective of home language</li> <li>• Access to ESL courses through the RISD Parent Education Center, the Public Library and other faith-based organizations</li> </ul>

<p>3. Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making</p>	<p>Pre-K families will be invited to participate and serve on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campus and District level Improvement Committees</li> <li>• Pre-K Parent Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Involve families in the planning process for Parent Camp</li> <li>• Families will have input and approve the Family Engagement Plan</li> <li>• Two-way communication with family and teacher</li> <li>• Survey parents</li> </ul>
<p>4. Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning to Increase Student Achievement</p>	<p>Pre-K families will be encouraged to attend learning opportunities to enhance and extend learning by providing parents with home activities that are age and developmentally appropriate to help prepare families for kindergarten by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Join and participate with the home program Vroom.com; SeeSaw</li> <li>• Report Cards</li> <li>• Progress Monitoring Reports three times a year</li> <li>• Home visits to share student’s strengths and areas to work on</li> <li>• Home lessons provided by CLI Engage and STEMscopes</li> <li>• Parent workshops: Love and Logic classes</li> <li>• Parent Newsletters</li> <li>• Parent Conferences two times a year</li> <li>• Approach parents as equal partners in their child’s education and emphasize parents as the child’s first teacher</li> <li>• Offer summer school for Pre-K students who qualify</li> </ul>
<p>5. Develop Staff Skills in Evidence-based Practices that Support Families in Meeting their Children’s Learning Benchmarks</p>	<p>Rockwall ISD will provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families that promote and develop family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all those involved in the child’s life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All teachers will have at least 30 hours of training provided by an Early Childhood Specialist</li> <li>• Teachers will have professional learning in understanding communication and</li> </ul>

	<p>engagement with families; including training on communicating with families in crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning</li> <li>• Teachers will have home visit training to support building family to school relationships</li> <li>• Develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies</li> </ul>
<p>6. Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Use Results for Continuous Improvement</p>	<p>Trainings, workshops, meetings and family engagement are followed-up with an evaluation to provide families the opportunity to express their view and provide feedback.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use feedback results to provide valuable information in planning, developing and implementing Pre-K activities</li> <li>• Chart on a rubric the campus family engagement for reflection and evaluation on ways to improve</li> </ul>