

# SUNRAY ISD

## -PRE-K-

### Family Engagement Plan

*Family engagement is defined as:*

*“The mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement, 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 is both culturally and linguistically appropriate.” Texas Administrative Code §102.1003.*

The Sunray ISD Pre-K/Early Childhood program believes in the uniqueness of families and strives to promote an environment where learning is child centered and developmentally age appropriate. Building partnerships between educators and families, through use of the **Family Engagement Plan**, ensures that every learner is encouraged, supported and enabled to achieve the highest level of skills and knowledge while reaching developmental and educational milestones.

There are six Sunray ISD **Family Engagement Plan** strategies. This plan is in accordance with the Commissioner’s Rule (102.1003(f)) in addition to specific examples of how each of the family engagement strategies will be accomplished within our Pre-K/Early Childhood program. We encourage parents, educators and community members to be actively involved with our students in their educational learning.

#### **A- Facilitating Family-To-Family Support**

Sunray ISD strives to provide a safe, loving environment where families and individuals can grow and learn together. We encourage families and community volunteers to share their educational and career experiences with one another. This ensures opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families. Examples of events include:

- Parent Orientation at the Beginning of the School Year
- Read aloud Programs (Family Literacy Night)
- Monthly Parent Newsletter, “Early Years”
- Family Literacy and Homework Night
- Parent Conferences (with the teacher, counselor, and/or administrator)
- Parent Volunteer Opportunities
- Book Fairs

- Parent Involvement meetings regarding school to home educational resources and activities to support student learning in the home.
- and/or parent-initiated school-community efforts in order to continue to be leaders/advocates in the community and on their child's campus

## **B- Establishing a Network of Community Resources**

Sunray ISD will work with community and faith-based organizations and establish resources that provide services to the students, in an effort to equip parents and caregivers with skills needed to have a healthy and productive family. We will also utilize monitoring and evaluating policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings and identifying support from various agencies.

Some of the resources will be:

- Texas Health and Human Services (Food Stamps)
- Children's Defense Fund (CHIPS/Children's Medicaid)
- Teach the Children Well
- Parks and Recreation awareness of events shared with parents.
- Translation services for families at meetings, newsletters, etc.
- Region 16 Education Service Center
- Child Find – Early identification of students with special needs.

## **C- Increasing Family Participation in Decision Making**

Sunray ISD increases/promotes family participation in decision-making by developing and supporting opportunities related to district and campus goal-setting. This includes developing and supporting leadership skills for family members and providing opportunities for families to advocate for their children by collaborating with families to develop strategies to solve problems and engaging families in shaping program activities. We welcome each family with an opportunity to review and provide input on program practices, policies, communications, and events in order to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of families.

Examples of these are:

- Regularly scheduled campus-level parent meetings
- Invite family feedback (evaluations) and suggestions with regard to activities being provided.
- Campus visitation and volunteering
- Educate families regarding their rights under State and Federal law regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Create and maintain an environment that values and affirms parent leadership.

- Analyze family enrollment information so educators can learn about the children in their classrooms from their parents' perspective and begin mutual goal setting with each family.
- Regularly held parent/teacher conferences
- Progress monitoring/Report card information is shared with parents encouraging their feedback, questions, and ideas regarding future learning experiences.

## **D- Equipping Families With Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning**

Sunray ISD recognizes that learning begins first in the home environment. We will help prepare families with learning opportunities to enhance and extend learning by providing tools to enhance and extend their child's learning. Our educators work with families to design or implement existing home educational resources to support learning at home and provide families with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment. Provide opportunities for families and children to visit the school in advance of the pre-kindergarten school year. Provide complementary home learning activities for families to engage in at home with children through information presented in newsletters, online technology, parent/family-teacher conferences, or other school-related events.

Examples of these are:

- Sunray ISD offers a high-quality full day Pre-Kindergarten program to learners, enhancing and extending socialization and facilitating parent involvement for Pre-Kindergarten families.
- Teacher/parent conferences held throughout the school year and collaborating with them in setting goals for their children.
- Encouraging family members to volunteer in the classroom, using the time to foster enhanced communication regarding their child's development
- Sharing technology tips/resources that are family-friendly to enhance parents' knowledge on child development (CLI Engage, I-Station etc.)
- Pre-Kindergarten registrations throughout the summer and school year that include campus tours and school/program information
- Pre-Kindergarten district webpage that shared information supportive of enhancing and extending learning for children participating in the program
- Parents are encouraged to access class/campus/district information from the Parent Portal on the SISD website
- Parents are provided with learner progress by way of regular report cards, weekly teacher communication, etc.
- "Family Engagement Night" modeling activities that can extend learning in the home environment.
- SISD Student Code of Conduct

## **E-Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families**

Sunray ISD believes in continual improvement. We provide essential professional development and training for educators in understanding communication and

engagement with families. Developing family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff to support and use culturally diverse, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies.

- Utilizing Class Dojo to involve parents in the education of their children on a daily or weekly basis.
- Individual parent/teacher conferences to discuss learning goals and progress toward meeting those goals.
- Provide teachers with training on research-based strategies parents can use with students to provide support at home.
- Develop educator skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies
- Promoting and developing family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff.
- Continuous professional development achieved through Early Childhood Education training.
- Educators will brainstorm and actively seek out ways parents can participate/volunteer within the classroom.
- Utilize developmentally appropriate activities to help children understand differences in families, cultures and traditions
- Educators will continue training targeting how to support families in crisis.
- Train educators about the resources that are available in the community that support families' interests and needs
- Utilization of resources available in CLI Engage and Circle Progress Monitoring platforms
- Continuing membership in the Region 16 Early Childhood Coop as a means of professional learning, program effectiveness, and practices associated with HQPK implementation
- Child Find training for early childhood educators/instructional aides

## **F-Evaluating Family Engagement Efforts and Using Evaluation for Continuous Improvement**

Sunray ISD will utilize self-assessment as a cornerstone to the overall process of evaluating for program effectiveness and to support future improvements. Our Pre-K program develops a data collection system that monitors family engagement and district teaching aligned with learning goals to promote continuous family engagement. Trainings, workshops, meetings, and parental involvement activities are followed with an evaluation which provides parents the opportunity to express their views on the value of the activity.

Some of these are:

- Use parent input to provide valuable information in the planning, development and implementation of programs for the district
- Compile evaluation data and use it to plan and implement a more effective Parental Involvement Program
- Parent surveys will gain information on preferences of program components and parents' perception of program effectiveness. Survey results serve to improve program design and to increase parent outreach and involvement.

- SISD will conduct an annual EOY program evaluation and review of the results will support improvement efforts for the new school year considering all areas of the **Family Engagement Plan**.
- Incorporating goals related to family engagement into the program strategic planning initiatives.
- Utilize the “High Quality Checklist” for Family Engagement Plan provided by Region 16 ESC.
- Utilize the “High Quality Pre-Kindergarten Self-Assessment” instrument created by the TEA to include results indicating strengths, opportunities to grow, and next steps for continuous improvement.
- Participation in family involvement activities will be quantitatively documented and monitored at the campus/district levels. Qualitative data will be collected to ensure the specific needs of families are being met. Evaluation results will future planning efforts in an effort to optimize family involvement within the school and community.