



NAVARRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

"SIMPLY PUT, PARENT INVOLVEMENT IS OFTEN MORE OF A 'DOING TO' WHILE ENGAGEMENT IS A 'DOING WITH'."

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

The Texas Education Agency and the Office of Early Childhood Education define family engagement as the mutual responsibility of families, schools and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement, 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. It is both culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate.

With the passage of House Bill 4 in 2015, family engagement shifted from a suggested best practice to a state mandate. Researchers and practitioners have long held that family engagement plays a crucial role in a child's education. Therefore, Texas Education Code 29.168, created by HB 4, 84th Texas Legislature, 2015, requires a school district to develop and implement a Family Engagement Plan to assist the district in achieving and maintaining high levels of family involvement and positive family attitudes toward education. The local Family Engagement Plan must be based on the family engagement strategies established by TEA in collaboration with other state agencies.

The goal of Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 102.1003 is to "provide districts with an opportunity to expand or enhance high-quality prekindergarten programs for qualifying students." TEA has identified six family engagement strategies which must be incorporated into the local Family Engagement Plan, these include:

- Facilitating Family to Family Support
- Establishing a Network of Community Resources
- Increasing Family Participation in Decision Making
- Equipping Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning, Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting their Children's Learning Benchmarks
- Evaluating Family Engagement Efforts and Using Evaluation for Continuous Improvement.



Facilitating Family to Family Support

Navarro ISD will provide opportunities for families to interact with one another to promote the education of their children. These opportunities will be facilitated by the school to create risk free environments for families to interact in a positive and welcoming atmosphere. Opportunities may include, but are not limited to:

- Pre-Kindergarten parent trainings
- Parent Teacher Organization Meetings at all Campuses
- Field Trips
- Classroom Parties
- Watch D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students) Program
- Student Holiday Performances and Award Ceremonies - Parents are encouraged to visit the campus to participate in student holiday performance and student achievement presentations.
- Parent Education Nights are offered district wide to support parent education on topics related to student success in schools. Parent Education Nights focus on education needs of students such as supporting Special Needs, Dyslexia, English as a Second Language, Gifted and Talented, Behavior Education, Bullying Prevention, social Media education and technology support skills.
- District Wide Communications in languages other than English
- Parent Volunteers are sought and incorporated into the campus setting. Opportunities are provided for parents to volunteer for classroom support, reading groups, tutoring, library support and classroom parties and reward events.
- Fall Festivals are held to support family interactions on the campuses. Fall Festivals focus on family games, food and fun.
- Target Success Nights are provided to parents to interact with teachers and learn about the character education program at the campus site.
- Navarro Education Foundation provides parents with the opportunity to work together to raise funds each year to support grant programs for all campuses.
- Navarro ISD honors all Veterans yearly on Veterans Day with a full district assembly, but specifically veterans of Navarro ISD students are invited to be honored in a separate gathering following the ceremony.

Establishing a Network of Community Resources

Navarro ISD has developed several partnerships and programs designed to provide a network of community resources for families and parents. The district has worked with Parent Teacher Organizations, local churches, business and community members to provide resources to support families. Positive Collaboration has been established with:

- Seguin Economic Development
- The Alamo Colleges District
- Seguin Chamber of Commerce
- Bluebonnet Trails
- Connections Individual and Family Services
- Alligator Dental
- Navarro Education Foundation
- Corporate Partnership with Commercial Metals Company
- School Health Advisory Committee
- Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center
- Family Violence Shelter
- Guadalupe County Mental Health Clinic
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Guadalupe Christian Counseling Center
- Walden Child and Adolescent Counseling
- Central Texas Professional Counseling
- Behavioral Therapy Clinic
- Ms. Tristan Foundation
- Seguin Youth Services
- The Christian Cupboard

In addition to these services, Navarro ISD offering the following school and district resources to parents and community members:

- Extended library hours weekly offering after school access to literature and technology.
- High Quality Pre-Kindergarten grant funding was used to provide education to parents on community resources.
- Navarro ISD has developed relationships with local church organizations providing after school care, summer care services, counseling services and basic support as needed.



Increase Family Participation in Decision Making

Navarro ISD has always valued parent and family input into district decision and planning processes. Navarro ISD is a small community in a rural county area. Our students, families and employees are a large part of our organization. Therefore, in decision making and planning for district resources, facilities and programs, Navarro ISD dedicated many resources to ensure that families, community members, students and staff have a voice as an integral stakeholder in the system. The following pathways have been developed to ensure collaborative decision making in all aspects of district and campus operations:

- Parent and Community Facilities Planning Committee
- Parent Teacher Organizations
- School Health Advisory Committee
- Campus Improvement Planning
- District Improvement Planning
- Long Range Technology Planning
- LPAC Parent Involvement Committee
- Band Booster Club
- Athletic Booster Club
- FFA Booster Club
- Pre-K Family Summer Reading Program
- Extended Library Hours
- Panther Posse Parent Leadership Organization

Within each one of the above listed organizations, parents and community members hold primary membership positions. Campus and District Improvement Planning, LPAC and Technology Planning teams include two parent representatives and at least one community member. Additionally, Parent Teacher Organizations, Booster Clubs, and others listed are either led primarily by full parent membership or consist of a large majority of parents to support the decision making of the district for programs and resources.

Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning

Navarro ISD will continue to offer half day Pre-Kindergarten classes to eligible students, enhancing and extending socialization and facilitating parent involvement for Pre-Kindergarten Parents. In addition to the Pre-Kindergarten Program, Navarro ISD will continue to offer the full day Pegasus Program which is a fully day Pre-Kindergarten classroom for students who qualify for services. The purpose of Pegasus is to provide a tuition based Pre-Kindergarten program to meet the extended needs of the Navarro ISD Community.

In the 2016 School Year, Navarro ISD was awarded the Highly Qualified Pre-Kindergarten Grant. Grant funds were utilized to assist in funding the following parent involvement projects:

- Literacy Back Packs for each PreK Family
- Literacy Family Fun Nights
- Summer Pre-K Home Reading Program to include technology resources for the entire family to utilize.
- Student Home Libraries for Pre-Kindergarten students.

Through the Parent Literacy Fun Nights, Parents were provided with guest speakers, information, strategies and tools to use with their children at home to support continuous learning from school to home. District wide, parent education nights have been established to support the extension of the classroom to the home setting. Each session is designed to provide parents with tools, ideas, resources

and training necessary to support their child's learning at home. Parent Education Nights include topics such as Dyslexia, Social Media Awareness, Behavior, Autism, Literacy Development, Language Acquisition, and Gifted and Talented.

Navarro ISD also provides on line access for parents to textbooks, grades, classroom lesson plans, academic calendars and course syllabus. Additionally, teachers use Remind 101 to maintain contact with parents for announcements and school assignments.

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

Navarro ISD campuses and leadership teams have adopted several character education programs to support student learning needs as well as to assist parents in assisting their children's academic and social needs. Programs include:

- Leader in Me
- Restorative Discipline
- C.H.A.M.P.S Curriculum

At the early childhood level, parents are provided with parent teacher conferences at the end of the first nine weeks time frame to review student learning needs and age appropriate benchmarks. Students in the early childhood (Pk-1st) are provided with standards based report cards, progress reports and information for parents to understand the developmental processes of students at this age. As students grow in our programs, parents are provided continuous access to teacher and staff to review student accomplishments. Parents are provided with on line continuous access to students academic information and grades.

Professional development is an ongoing continuous process, teachers, counselor and principals are provided with staff development opportunities designed to address the whole child as well as the varying learning differences among students to ensure that each student receives the instruction necessary to support their learning.

Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Use Evaluations for Continuous Improvement

Navarro ISD provides a Family and Community Survey in the Spring semester of each school year. The purpose of the survey is to obtain feedback from families and community members about the progress, programs, and offerings of the district. The district utilizes the feedback from the surveys to design programs, re-design programs, and make adjustments as necessary to meet the community needs. The feedback is an essential component of district and campus improvement planning each year. The Navarro ISD Board of Trustees also utilizes the data collected to support the development of Navarro ISD Board Goals.

2018



NAVARRO ISD

