

Nordheim ISD Pre-K Family Engagement Plan 2025-2026

Introduction

At Nordheim ISD, we understand that family engagement is a critical component of student success, especially in the early years of education. Our Pre-K Family Engagement Plan aligns with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines and is designed to foster a collaborative relationship between families and the school. This plan emphasizes the importance of communication, collaboration, and trust to support our youngest learners both at home and in the classroom.

Goals

1. Enhance Communication: Establish clear and consistent communication channels between families and the school.
2. Promote Collaboration: Encourage family participation in school activities and decision-making processes.
3. Build Trust: Develop a trusting relationship between families and the school through transparency and mutual respect.

TEA Guiding Principles

- Facilitate family-to-family support
- Establish a network of community resources
- Increase family participation in decision making
- Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning
- Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks
- Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement

Strategies and Activities

Communication

- Weekly Newsletters: Distribute a weekly newsletter that includes classroom updates, upcoming events, and tips for supporting learning at home.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: Schedule regular parent-teacher conferences to discuss student progress, address concerns, and set goals.
- Classroom Apps: Utilize classroom communication apps (e.g., ClassDojo, Remind) to send real-time updates, share photos, and provide reminders.

- **Bilingual Communications:** Ensure all communications are available in both English and Spanish to accommodate our diverse community.

Collaboration

- **Family Workshops:** Offer workshops on topics such as early literacy, numeracy, and positive behavior support. Provide materials and activities that families can use at home.
- **Volunteering Opportunities:** Create opportunities for families to volunteer in the classroom and at school events. Provide a variety of roles to accommodate different schedules and interests.
- **Home Learning Activities:** Provide families with simple, engaging activities to reinforce classroom learning at home. Include instructions and necessary materials.
- **Family Resource Center:** Establish a Family Resource Center with educational materials, parenting resources, and community information.

Trust Building

- **Open House Events:** Host open house events at the beginning and throughout the school year to familiarize families with the school environment, meet staff, and learn about the curriculum.
- **Family Surveys:** Conduct regular surveys to gather feedback from families about their needs, preferences, and experiences. Use this feedback to make informed decisions and improvements.
- **Transparent Communication:** Ensure transparency by regularly sharing school policies, procedures, and changes with families. Address concerns promptly and respectfully.

Professional Development

- **Staff Training:** Provide ongoing professional development for staff on effective family engagement practices and cultural competency.
- **Best Practices Sharing:** Encourage staff to share best practices and success stories related to family engagement.

Implementation Timeline

- **August:**
 - Host a Pre-K Open House to welcome families and introduce them to the school environment.
 - Distribute the first monthly newsletter and introduce the classroom communication app.
- **September:**
 - Begin weekly newsletters and parent-teacher conferences.
 - Launch the first family workshop focused on early literacy.
- **October:**
 - Organize a family volunteer day and provide information on ongoing volunteering opportunities.

- Conduct the first family survey and share the results with the community.
- November:
 - Introduce home learning activities and distribute materials.
 - Host a trust-building event, such as a family picnic or community gathering.
- December:
 - Continue regular communication and workshops.
 - Review feedback and make adjustments as necessary.

Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

- Monthly Reviews: The Pre-K team will review the engagement activities monthly to assess their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.
- Bi-Annual Surveys: Conduct bi-annual surveys to gather in-depth feedback from families on the engagement plan's effectiveness.
- Annual Report: At the end of each school year, prepare an annual report summarizing the engagement activities, outcomes, and areas for improvement. Ensure the report complies with TEA reporting requirements.

Conclusion

By actively engaging families in their children's early education, Nordheim ISD aims to create a supportive and inclusive school community. Through consistent communication, meaningful collaboration, and a foundation of trust, we are committed to fostering the success of our Pre-K students. This plan will be continuously reviewed and improved to meet the evolving needs of our community, ensuring compliance with TEA guidelines and standards.