



GALENA PARK ISD Family Engagement Plan Pre-Kindergarten

The preschool years are a critical time in a student's education. The learning experiences during these years provide a foundation that guide children academically, socially, and emotionally. Children's learning and intellectual growth are affected by the specific experiences they have in a preschool classroom. Students come to class with vastly different abilities and experiences, and we want them all to experience early success academically and socially. Galena Park Independent School District (GPISD) and the Early Childhood Department believe that parents, teachers, and community members are all instrumental in the educational success of all students.

In an effort to maximize the quality of education for Pre-Kindergarten students in GPISD, we encourage the involvement of key stakeholders by having them take part in the process that allows them to contribute to our school community providing input regarding the services offered. We have developed a Family Engagement Plan to increase the collaboration between all stakeholders. The active participation of parents, teachers, and community members in all aspects of students' education is a valuable tool that GPISD welcomes and respects.

Components

A. Facilitate family-to-family support

The Galena Park ISD Early Childhood Department will create safe and respectable environments where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups, invite participants to share their education and experiences, and ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families.

Strategies include:

The district will offer Parenting Education Classes at campuses. These sessions will be facilitated by campus counselors and parents will be encouraged to share ideas, suggestions, and effective practices.

A variety of District Wide and Campus Family Literacy, Math and Science Nights will be held throughout the year. The Early Childhood Department will collaborate with campuses to provide specific opportunities for parents of preschool students to engage in developmentally appropriate activities and learn and share from one another.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities are offered at campuses to provide parents an opportunity to meet other parents and share experiences.

B. Establish a network of community resources

The Galena Park ISD Early Childhood Program will build partnerships with community agencies and faith-based organizations, utilize community resources, and identify support from various agencies that provide services to the students in an effort to equip parents and caregivers with skills needed to have a healthy and productive family.

Strategies include:

The Early Childhood Department will collaborate with the Department of Counseling and Behavioral Services to develop list of family resources.

The Early Childhood Department will post the list on website main page and provide the list to all early childhood teachers along with teacher training on parent engagement.

The Early Childhood Department will create a parent resource section of Early Childhood Website with links to online learning opportunities.

Community members, private child care providers and faith-based organization center directors will be invited to participate in district events that provide resources for parents.

C. Increase family participation in decision making

The Galena Park ISD Early Childhood Program encourages family participation in decision making by collaborating with families to develop strategies to solve problems. Families will be provided opportunities to shape program activities and cultivate a flow of two-way communication.

Strategies include:

Parents and community members will be invited to participate in the District Family Engagement Committee. Through this committee, parents will be encouraged to review and provide input on program practices, communications, and events to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of families.

Parents will have the opportunity to complete survey to determine the topics of discussion they wish to participate in during the school year.

The District Family Engagement Committee, along with parental participants, will review the Parent Engagement Plan to gather feedback and make recommendations.

The Early Childhood Department will provide opportunities for parent feedback and collaboration during parent training sessions.

Invite family feedback (evaluations) and suggestions with regard to activities being provided.

D. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning

The Galena Park ISD Early Childhood Program will equip families with learning opportunities to enhance and extend learning and provide families with information and training to create a home learning environment with positive family experiences and practices.

Strategies include:

All parents and caregivers within the district will be provided with access to the Ready Rosie online resource. Teachers will be provided training from Ready Rosie staff on effectively utilizing the program.

The Early Childhood Department will provide district wide Parenting Education Classes on Developing Literacy, Math and Science Skills through play.

The Early Childhood Department will collaborate with campus staff for Literacy, Math and Science Events to develop specific opportunities for preschool families.

E. Develop staff skills in evidence- based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks.

The Galena Park ISD Early Childhood Department will provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families.

Strategies include:

The Early Childhood Department will provide ongoing professional development for all early childhood staff in the area of cultural responsiveness and how to connect and engage with families.

The Children's Learning Institute and Ready Rosie staff will be invited to provide professional development with early childhood staff on the impact of parent engagement and effective practices.

The Early Childhood Department will model and collaborate with early childhood staff in providing parent learning opportunities.

F. Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement

The Galena Park ISD Early Childhood Department will monitor family engagement efforts and use data to ensure alignment between activities and goals to ensure continuous improvement and adjustment.

Strategies include:

Ready Rosie usage will be tracked and monitored by the Early Childhood Department.

Teacher feedback will be solicited regarding family engagement initiatives.

The Early Childhood Department will review data and usage information to promote continuous improvement in family engagement activities.