

SANDS CISD Family Engagement Plan

Early Childhood and beyond

Sands CISD's Family Engagement Plan insists that communication, mutual responsibility and positive interaction is the key between families and schools for a child to have higher levels of success in school. Prekindergarten is the best time to initiate and facilitate this connection with parents and families as this will serve as strong foundation to allow for continuous growth and nurturing throughout the child's life. We continue this plan as students move up from Kindergarten to graduation. Sands School incorporates a family engagement plan that provides opportunity to: create a foundation for collaboration of mutual partners, embraces the individuality of families, promotes a culture of learning that is focused on the child and family driven, establish and explain expectations, and continuously allows for improvement and evaluating the family engagement activities and efforts.

Facilitate Family to Family Support

- Facilitating environments where families can feel safe and respected.
- Invite and encourages parents to participate in such things as: grade level specific family engagement activities, volunteering, classroom parties, reward days, field trips, theme week activities, and parent conferences.
- Hold Events such as: Open House, Book Fair, Thanksgiving Celebration, End of Year celebration and Meet the Teacher where students can explore their classroom and learning environment.
- Reach out to families eligible through a PreK and Kindergarten roundup program and provide them campus tours and welcome packet with information on expectations, procedures and school preparation.
- Establish a regular and meaningful communication between school and home (daily folder home with expectations and student work, weekly newsletters of what students will be learning).

Establish a Network of Community Resources

- Provide families with community resources and brochures they may need such as: the food bank/pantry, boys and girls club, county health dept, state insurance programs, counseling, library activities and programs, and immunizations.
- Provide information on where to receive assistance with applications on: WIC, SSI benefits, CHIP, TANF, SNAP.
- Continue partnerships with local churches and local businesses to provide resources for families in need.
- During the summer provide access to parents, children and community to summer school programs, camps, and local library information.
- Provide translators and culturally relevant resources in Spanish and German when needed.

Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making.

- Development, adopt and implement goals within the annual campus improvement plan targeting family engagement.
- Opportunity for families to provide input on programs, policies, communications and events through daily communication forms, and during parent/teacher conferences.
- Campus level committees, and District level committees provide input on how best to Equip families with tools to Enhance and Extend Learning. Give opportunities for parents to be a part of these committees.
- Access to the Sands CISD website @ sands.esc17.net to provide important information and provide opportunities to extend learning at home.
- TSR website: www.texaschoolready.org/parents, Parent Resource page is provided to students to help them find resources to better equip themselves to provide the proper home environment for their child.
- Summer Activity Books to continue to work on skills over the summer in preparation for beginning of kindergarten
- Events for parents to attend to promote and encourage learnings such as: class field trips, Meet the Teacher Night, Book Fair, Christmas Musical, Spring Talent Show, parent conferences, theme week activities and reward events
- In addition to daily folder home with expectations and student work, weekly newsletters of what students will be learning, families will also receive in English and Spanish monthly newsletter: Early Years. This contains home learning activities for families to engage with their children and developmentally appropriate behavioral expectations and strategies.

Develop School Personnel and Practices to improve family engagement:

- Develop Staff Skills with evidence-based practices that Support Families in Meeting their Children's Learning Benchmarks. This will be accomplished through targeted professional development training and staff planning meetings.
- Promote parents' and teachers' feedback through communication logs, phone calls and use parent input in planning, developing, and implementing programs.
- Student progress monitoring data BOY and EOY results.
- Teacher Reflection on curriculum, strategies and practices.
- Complete High Quality PreK Grant/Self-Assessment.