

Houston ISD Parent Engagement Plan 2019-2020

In the 2016-17 school year, Houston ISD was the recipient of the TEA High-Quality Prekindergarten grant. <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter102/ch102aa.html>
The goal of this grant was to “provide opportunity for districts to expand and enhance high-quality prekindergarten programs for qualifying students.”

As of 2017-18, all Texas districts are expected to meet the [requirements](#) outlined in the previous year’s grant now specified as Rider 78. [Rider 78 FAQ](#).

For 2019-20, all HISD schools will continue to develop a campus plan to support parent engagement. Family engagement as defined by TEA is the mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement and 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 and is both culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate.

For 2019-20 each school district or open-enrollment charter school shall develop, implement, and make available on the district, charter, or campus website a family engagement plan to assist the district in achieving and maintaining high levels of family involvement and positive family attitudes toward education. An effective family engagement plan creates a foundation for the collaboration of mutual partners, embraces the individuality and uniqueness of families, and promotes a culture of learning that is child centered, age appropriate, and family driven.

TEA has defined six family engagement categories that must be supported within the local family engagement plan. The following pages outline the six areas and list district activities to support each family engagement category.

1. Facilitate family-to-family support.

create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups;

invite former program participants, including families and community volunteers, to share their education and career experiences with current families; and

ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families such as training on family leadership

- Parent Teacher Associations/Parent Teacher Organizations
- Campus Shared Decision-Making Committee
- District Community Meetings
- Title 1 Campus Meetings
- Volunteer opportunities through VIPS
- District FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Department Sponsored Activities
- Head Start Prekindergarten Collaboration at identified campuses
- District HIPPO Program
- PK Round-Up Activities
- Campus Community Partnerships
- Campus Dual Language Nights – Building Biculturalism
- Houston Urban League
- FACE Academic Parent-Teacher Teams

2. Establish a network of community resources.

build strategic partnerships;

leverage community resources;

monitor and evaluate policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways;

establish and maintain partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies;

identify support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers;

partner with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings;

provide and facilitate referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs;

communicate short- and long-term program goals to all stakeholders; and

identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language

- Collaborations with Neighborhood Community Centers, Avance, Harris County Department of Educations, Head Start
- Children’s Museum of Houston Family Learning Events
- Children’s Museum of Houston Free Thursday Family Nights
- Houston Public Library Partnership – Every HISD student receives a library card
- District Family Support Services
- Ready Rosie
- District and Campus Health Fairs
- Special Education Parent Summit
- Scholastic Parent Backpacks for PK home instruction
- Subscription to digital library – myOn
- MyOn Parent Lessons for PK
- Early Matters
- My Brother’s Keeper
- Children@Risk
- Collaborative for Children
- Children’s Learning Institute
- Rice University School Literacy and Culture – Campus OWL Labs (PK)
- Community Faith-Based Partnerships
- United Way
- Mobile Library
- Campus Parent Parties – Skill building for Parents – Financial Advisory, etc.
- FACE Community Resource Guide
<http://www.houstonisd.org/communityresource>
- Read Houston Read Mentors
- Lakeshore Learning Free Saturday Learning Events
- Breakfast in the Classroom and Summer Meals programs
- Summer School and Campus Enrichment Programs

3. Increase family participation in decision making.

develop and support a family advisory council;

develop, adopt, and implement identified goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement;

develop and support leadership skills for family members and providing opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families;

collaborate with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers;

engage families in shaping program activities and cultivating the expectation that information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication;

develop, in collaboration with families, clearly defined goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress;

provide 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; and

use appropriate tools such as surveys or focus groups to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan

- Title 1 Parent Advisory Committee Meetings and Campus Parent Compact
- Campus Shared Decision-Making Committee
- PTA/PTO Participation
- District Parent Satisfaction Survey
- District Social Media Opportunities
- Campus Event Evaluations for Parent Feedback
- Campus Weekly Communication Folders
- School Choice Magnet School Fairs
- Dual Language School Opportunities
- District Surveys
- School Health Advisory Council

4. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning.

design or implementing existing home educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership;

provide families with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities;

equip families with resources and skills to support their children through the transition to school and offering opportunities for families and children to visit the school in advance of the prekindergarten school year;

provide complementary home learning activities for families to engage in at home with children through information presented in newsletters, online technology, social media, parent/family-teacher conferences, or other school- or center-related events;

provide families with information, best practices, and training related to age-appropriate developmental expectations;

emphasize benefits of positive family practices such as attachment and nurturing that complement the stages of children's development;

collaborate with families to appropriately respond to children's behavior in a non-punitive, positive, and supportive way;

encourage families to reflect on family experiences and practices in helping children; and

assist families to implement best practices that will help achieve the goals and objectives identified to meet the needs of the child and family

- Full-day Pre-K
- Parent Online Access to Grade Level Curriculum and Resources
- Parent Portal Access to GradeSpeed
- Campus Registration Activities to Support Ready Rosie
- PK Backpacks Initiative
- myOn Parent Instructions
- Access to the District HUB for Online Textbook Access
- Frog Street Family Library provided to each PK Classroom to check out to Parents
- Campus Early Literacy and Math Family Nights
- Parent Notification of Performance – PK CIRCLE results, etc.
- Report Cards and Progress Reports
- ENGAGE Platform for PK Parent Engagement/Home Activities
- Campus Conference Days and Open House
- Social Media/Technology – District and Campus websites, Facebook, Twitter, Ready Rosie, campus apps – Remind 101, Class Dojo. Etc.
- Conscious Discipline – Parenting Techniques
- Dual Language Nights
- Pre-K Round-Up Activities
- Campus-Scheduled Home Visits
- HIPPY – Home Instruction for parent of Preschool Youngsters Program
- Campus-Based After School Programs and Tutorials
- Parent Communication in English/Spanish
- District automated phone calls and texts regarding district/campus events
- Montessori Parent Engagement/Campus Leadership Activities

- Recommendation of free apps that students can access at home to continue to skill build and practice
- Campus Activities – Donuts with Dad/Muffins with Mom
- Parent Access to Grading Rubrics to Better Understand Expectations
- Gifted and Talented Expo to Showcase Student Learning
- Science and History Fairs
- Student Homework Logs
- Character Education
- College Career Awareness
- Emerge Program
- Campus Make and Take Parent Sessions

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

provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis;

promote and developing family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff; and

develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies

- Pre-K Campus Lead Teachers– Monthly Meetings pertaining to Rider 78 components with a focus on Family Engagement/Student Progress
- Counseling and Guidance Support
- Engaging Families in Children’s Literacy Development – Training Binder for each Campus
- CIRCLE Assessment training for all PK Teachers – including the parent component
- Culturally relevant classroom libraries and lending libraries
- FACE Department Trainings, Fundamental Communication; Two-Way Communication; Parent Teacher Conferences; Customer Service Training
- Title 1 Part A Parent Engagement Activities
- FACE Family Friendly Schools Manual
- FACE Family Friendly Schools Campus Certification Program
- FACE Family and Community Engagement Campus Action Teams
- FACE Recommended Reading Bibliography
- FACE Academic Parent-Teacher Teams
- FACE Family Learning Academies
- FACE Back to School Toolkit for Campuses

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

conduct goal-oriented home visits to identify strengths, interests, and needs;

develop data collection systems to monitor family engagement and focusing on engagement of families from specific populations to narrow the achievement gap;

use data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement;

ensure an evaluation plan is an initial component that guides action;

use a cyclical process to ensure evaluation results are used for continuous improvement and adjustment; and

ensure teachers play a role in the family engagement evaluation process

- District Parent Survey Feedback to Evaluate and Improve Services for the Next Year
- Perception Data
- Parent Participation Data
- Student Performance Data
- Ready Rosie Participation/Enrollment
- Annual Title 1 Part A Parent Engagement Survey/Log/Documentation
- TEA Evaluation Support Tool