

What does it mean to be a Family Friendly School?

It's a campus where principals, faculty, and staff have proven their dedication and commitment to working with families toward a common goal: achieving academic success for their students. A Family Friendly School welcomes families to become active in their students' education through events that are linked to learning. Parents/caregivers are invited to participate in decision-making processes that affect their child's educational progress.

Why is it important?

Parents are the first child's teacher. Research has shown that when parents and caregivers are engaged in a child's education, students are more likely to succeed. The program helps the schools empower parents/caregivers with the necessary knowledge to advocate for their child's education. If parents/caregivers know what their student needs to learn, they can assist by providing opportunities to practice and make the learning process part of the family routine.

What are the benefits of a Family Friendly School to my child?

When children are part of a Family Friendly School, they become more focused on their learning, as they feel it is important to the adults in their life. Therefore, school will become important for them as well. Communication and expectations are clearer, and discipline or misunderstandings in the classrooms become less common.

What does a school have to do to be considered Family Friendly?

To become a Family Friendly School, a principal must apply to the program by the beginning of the school year. A Family and Community Engagement specialist then helps faculty and staff complete a series of tasks, most of them linked to learning throughout the school year. Each activity gives schools the opportunity to earn a star, and based on the number of stars accumulated during the school year, the campus becomes either bronze, silver or gold certified.

Which HISD schools are Family Friendly?

The program was launched for the first time in 2015-2016 school year. This first school year had 26 campuses enrolled in the program, and of those campuses, 12 have become gold certified, 8 silver, 5 bronze, and 1 given an honorable mention:

| Gold | Silver | Bronze | Honorable Mention |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Belfort Early Childhood Center | Benbrook Elementary | Sugar Grove Academy | Kashmere Gardens Elementary |
| Fonwood Early Childhood Center | Grissom Elementary | Woodson Leadership Academy | |
| Bell Elementary | Marshall Elementary | Fonville Middle School | |
| Brookline Elementary | Tijerina Elementary | Stevenson Middle School | |
| DeAnda Elementary | Energized for Excellence MS | Welch Middle School | |
| Herrera Elementary | Forest Brook Middle School | | |
| Kennedy Elementary | Ortiz Middle School | | |
| Martinez Elementary School | Madison High School | | |
| Black Middle School | | | |
| Fondren Middle School | | | |
| Jackson Middle School | | | |
| Chavez High School | | | |