

# Waller Independent School District Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan 2021-2022



*No school can work well for children if parents and teachers do not act in partnership on behalf of the children's best interests.*

*Dorothy H Cohen*

*Kelly Baehren, Waller ISD Chief Academic Officer*

# **Waller Independent School District**

## **Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan**

### **2021-2022**

#### **Overview:**

Family engagement is defined as “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 experience and supports the whole child and is both culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate”. TAC 102.1003 This partnership is essential in the success of all students. The goal is to achieve and maintain high levels of family involvement and positive family attitudes toward education.

#### **Waller ISD Family Engagement Strategies:**

- **Facilitate family-to-family support**
  - Waller ISD (WISD) intends to survey bilingual parents on ways to improve communication between the school and the parent.
  - WISD will continue the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program to develop parent networks and programs to expand family and parent engagement activities with qualified volunteers.
  - Parent education for Pre-K parents is offered through campus curriculum nights and other special family nights.
  - Parent education for Bilingual Pre-K parents is also offered through the “Make and Take” trainings by the Bilingual Department and the Family Engagement Specialist.
  - Watch Dog Dads is offered at two campuses to create the unique opportunity for fathers to interact and support their children.
  - PTO organizations at each campus offer family-to-family interaction and support revolving around school activities.
  - The District Site Based Decision Making Committee and the Campus Improvement Teams provide opportunities for parents to interact and network with other parents, teachers, and administrators interested in supporting public education in our community.
  - WISD Family Engagement Specialist will encourage family-to-family support of our community members, including our Spanish speaking families.
  - Adult ESL program is offered by the Bilingual Department in partnership with Wharton Community College.
  - H-E-B Read 3 Program targets preschool children ages three to five and their families to help build literacy, strengthen English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) skills, and promote kindergarten readiness.
  - WISD will have Chromebooks available to provide families with hands-on opportunities when attending a WISD training and allow online access to school-related resources.

- **Establish a network of family resources**

- WISD links families with support systems, peer to peer groups, bilingual translators, and various resources depending on family needs.
- WISD provides a link on the district website “For Parents” that offers information on various school related topics.
- WISD provides the listing of social service agencies and phone numbers in northern Waller County on the district website.
- Relationships and partnerships with community-based organizations such as Community of Faith have been established and the church has “adopted” WISD schools to support. Other relationships include WARM, Family Ties, and Shield Bearer.
- Peachjar allows parents to receive digital flyers of school and school district-approved electronic flyers to keep parents informed about upcoming school and community activities, programs, and events.
- WISD provides a Back to School Fair that not only provides backpacks and school supplies, but it also provides health and community resources to families.

- **Increase family participation in decision making**

- WISD has established a strong foundation of collaboration with parents and community partners. The district offers a variety of parent and community involvement opportunities that allows feedback:
  - Bilingual Curriculum Night at elementary campuses
  - Various Campus Curriculum Nights
  - Houston Hispanic Forum
  - Community based partnerships
  - Adult ESL Program
  - H-E-B Read 3
  - Back to School Fair
- Parents are provided an opportunity to discuss school issues and provide input through the campus PTO.
- The District Site Based Decision Making Committee membership includes community members and parents as active and participating members. These meetings are open to the public.
- Parents are represented on each Campus Improvement Team and are involved in the development of the Campus Improvement Plan.
- WISD consults with parents to jointly develop/revise the District and Campus Parental Involvement Policies each year.
- Each WISD campus has a School-Parent Compact that outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students share responsibility for improved student achievement and by what means the school and parents will build and develop a partnership. The School-Parent Compact is distributed at the Elementary Parent Conference Day at the end of the first six weeks.
- Each WISD campus will host the Annual Title I Parent Meeting providing information regarding federal programs and expenditures, informing parents of their right to be involved, and explaining the reservation of funds for parental involvement.

- o Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through various surveys conducted by the district (Calendar Survey, Bilingual Communications Survey, etc).
- **Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning**
  - o Each WISD campus provides PreK parents monthly the newsletter “Reading Connection” to show how to improve school readiness and enhance parenting skills.
  - o Each WISD campus intends to continue in the development of an effective and functional Parent Resource Center on each campus.
  - o Parents are encouraged to access their student’s grades through Skyward on the WISD website.
  - o Adult ESL classes for parents will continue to be offered through the Bilingual Department.
  - o Programs specific to Pre-K:
    - Pre-K Meet the Teacher Night
    - Read Aloud Nights
    - Curriculum Nights
    - Make and Take Sessions – parental and community participation in programs for ELs, Title III, Part A
    - Elementary Parent Teacher Conference Day (fall semester) and regular parent-teacher conferences at any time as needed by parents or teachers.
    - Fall/Spring School Festivals on campus
    - Grandparent’s Day
    - Grade Level Performances/Programs
    - Academic Awards Programs
    - Family Literacy Night/Book Fair
    - Parent Café
    - Watch Dog Dads
    - H-E-B Read 3
    - Back to School Fair
    - Lone Star Tomball Parent Academy
  - o Each campus will publish a school newsletter to keep parents informed of important information including progress reports, report cards, test results, new programming options, and suggestions for parents to become involved in their child’s education.
  - o Each campus sends home a weekly folder with campus and academic information. The folders serve as a means of two-way communication between the school/teachers and parents.
  - o WISD provides a newsletter “Waller ISD News” electronically that includes key events, celebrations, and district information. Other WISD social media outlets are Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.
  - o Parents will be notified of their right to request and receive information regarding the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teachers.
  - o Written notice will be provided to a parent/guardian of each student in the classroom when an inappropriately certified teacher or uncertified teacher is assigned for four or more consecutive weeks of instructional days during the school year.
  - o Information will be provided to parents in a format and language they understand. All parent communication will be offered in English and Spanish.

- o WISD utilizes the Blackboard Mass Notification System, an automated notification system that sends district and campus messages via call, text and email about school events/meetings.
- o Parents will be provided frequent feedback on student progress. Report cards are sent home each nine weeks with progress reports at the third and sixth week.
  
- **Provide professional development opportunities for educators on culturally responsive, evidence-based strategies that support the education of the child**
  - o Pre-K teacher's staff development plans will include strands on cultural diversity, evidence-based strategies to involve parents in the education of their children, and family poverty as it impacts schools.
  - o WISD campus administration educates their staff in the value and contributions of parents, and in building ties between parents and schools.
  
- **Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement**
  - o WISD will conduct an annual evaluation and review of the content and effectiveness of the Title I, Part A Parent Involvement Program and Parental Involvement Policy. Parents will be involved in this review, aimed at improving the academic quality of Title 1, Part A Schools.
  - o During the Comprehensive Needs Assessment, Family and Community Involvement efforts will be reviewed at the district and campus levels. The CNA will identify strengths, areas of weakness, and priorities for the district in this area.
  - o The Bilingual Communications Survey is conducted to gather feedback on ways to communicate with the bilingual parents, events or areas of interest in the schools, volunteering, and comfort level at the child's school.
  - o Parents and families will be consulted in the development of the Campus Improvement Plans in order to address needs and goals for the upcoming year.
  - o Participation data will be collected at family engagement events.
  - o Parent/Community Surveys are conducted by the Communications department.