

**JIM NED CISD  
PRE-K FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN  
2023-2024**

*Family engagement is defined by:*

*“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.”  
Texas Administrative Code §102.1003*

Jim Ned CISD believes that the education of all students should be a partnership between the school and the parent community. Both the district and the parent community play an essential role in the success of all students. Our vision is to grow students with strong moral character who succeed academically through high expectations – we believe that a strong partnership with parent community and school staff is imperative for this vision to be successful.

The Early Childhood Department, Lawn Elementary Leadership Team, and Buffalo Gap Leadership Team in collaboration with parents in the community, have created a family engagement plan that reflects practices that enhance parent and community involvement along with special needs of early learners.

1. Facilitate family to family support

Jim Ned CISD's Pre-Kindergarten program creates a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups; invites former program participants, including families and community volunteers to share their educational and career experiences with current families; and ensures opportunities for continuous participation in events designed to families. Examples of events include:

- “Open House” during each school year that creates a welcoming space for parents and families to gather and talk informally with one another before and/or after the event. This space is intentionally designed to be a family-friendly with culturally diverse pictures and materials that welcome all families.
- Parent/Grandparents/Community volunteers to support parents and classroom activities
- “Book Fair” where families can get to know one another and share community and school experiences.
- “Pre-K Grade Level” and meeting held at the beginning of the school year to provide parent training along with family to family support, dialogue, experiences that encourage parents to establish mutual support with each other and the teacher/administration/campus.

- TAP (Teachers & Parents) and PTN (Parent Teacher Network) meetings and sponsored events encouraging parent volunteer opportunities allowing parents to work collaboratively and designed to match families who have similar interest, goals, or challenges and providing opportunities for families to have ongoing connections.
- Class field trips and other activities that include family participation.
- Site Based Decision Making Teams provide opportunities for parents to interact and network with other parents interested in supporting public education in the Jim Ned community.
- End of year parent survey feedback used for next year planning.
- Jim Ned CISD Pre-K early registration. Early indicators of the following year enrollment.

## 2. Establishing a network of community resources

The Jim Ned CISD PK Family Engagement Plan builds strategic partnerships by leveraging community resources; establishing and maintaining partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies; monitoring and evaluating policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways; identifying support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers; partnering with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings; and identifying partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language. Examples of Strategies include:

- Link families with support systems, peer to peer groups, bilingual translators, and various resources depending on family needs.
- Utilizing the school counselor as a Liaison for connecting families with available resources
- Partnerships with community-based organizations, such as but not limited to: On the Way Home Ministries (local food bank and services), Lawn and Buffalo Gap local churches (provide many needs in our community), Caring for Kids Organization (provides needs during the holidays), Taylor Telecom provides Snack packs 4 kids (perishable food for students that need it).
- Make sure that families are aware of services and know about their rights under federal and state laws
- Jim Ned CISD encourages staff to build relationships with community programs and events to enhance the effectiveness of referrals and to develop parent/staff relationships.

## 3. Increasing family participation in decision-making

Jim Ned CISD increases/promotes family participation in decision-making by developing and supporting opportunities related to district and campus goal-setting efforts targeting family engagement; developing and supporting leadership skills for family members and providing opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families; collaborating with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as a problem solver; engaging families in shaping program activities and cultivating the expectation that

information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication; developing, in collaboration with families, clearly defined goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress; providing 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.

Utilize appropriate tools such as surveys to gather feedback on the **Family Engagement Plan**. Examples of family participation in district and campus decision-making opportunities include:

- Campus Site-Based Decision-Making Committee composed of campus staff, community partners, parents, and business representatives focusing on planning, curriculum, staff development, overall school organization, all with the intent of improving Lawn and Buffalo Gap Elementary.
- Campus volunteering and visitation opportunities.
- Share strategies with parents on how to advocate for themselves and their children appropriately
- Educate families regarding their rights under State and Federal law regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Create and maintain an environment that values and affirms parent involvement.
- Using parents as equal partners with staff in reviewing family engagement results and making decisions regarding plans for continuous improvement
- LPAC parent representation
- Regularly held parent/teacher conferences
- Progress monitoring information is shared with parents encouraging their feedback, questions, and ideas regarding future learning experiences with their child.
- Provide feedback opportunity through an end of year survey on family engagement opportunities and the family engagement plan.
- Opportunities for families to serve on various campus and district committees/group to further learning.

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

Jim Ned CISD Early Childhood Program will provide family engagement opportunities that support parenting skills and activities that support ongoing achievement through 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. Examples of how Jim Ned CISD equips families with tools to enhance and extend learning include:

- Jim Ned CISD offers a high-quality full day PK program to eligible learners, enhancing and extending socialization and facilitating parent involvement for Pre-K families
  - Teacher/parent conferences held throughout the school year and collaborating with them in setting goals for their children while in the PK program
  - Encouraging family members to volunteer in the classroom and on field trips, using the time to foster enhanced communication regarding their child's development
  - Suggested extension home activities that correspond to activities done in the classroom
  - Sharing technology tips/resources that are family-friendly to enhance parents' knowledge on child development (Accessible Downloadable Apps/Jim Ned teacher/technology web page)
  - PK registrations and throughout the summer and school year that include campus tours and school/program information
  - Parents are encouraged to access class/campus/district information from the Parent Portal on the Jim Ned Lawn and Buffalo Gap Elementary websites
  - Parents are provided with learner progress by way of regular checklist, teacher communication, class dojo, Remind, Black Board, etc.
  - BOY, MOY, and EOY benchmarking
  - Jim Ned CISD Code of Conduct
5. Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks

The Jim Ned CISD Early Childhood Department will provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis; promote and develop 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. Strategies are listed below:

- Ongoing professional development for all early childhood staff in the area(s) of cultural responsiveness and how to connect with families.
  - Continuous professional development achieved through training opportunities from Region 14.
  - Educators will continue training targeting how to support families in crisis.
  - Develop staff skills to support families in meeting their goals
  - Gain an understanding of early intervention services to support family inquiries and needs
6. Evaluating family engagement efforts and using evaluations for continuous improvement

Self-assessment will be a cornerstone to the overall process of evaluating for program effectiveness and to support future improvements. Our PK program will monitor family engagement; uses data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement; employs an evaluation plan to guide action; uses a cyclical process to ensure evaluation results are used for continuous improvement and adjustment; and ensures educators and parents play a role in the family engagement evaluation process. Efforts contributing to the evaluation process include:

- Parent surveys will gain information on preferences of program components and parents' perception of program effectiveness. Survey results serve to improve program design and to increase parent outreach and involvement.
- Jim Ned CISD will conduct an annual EOY program evaluation and review of the results will support improvement efforts for the new school year considering all areas of the **Family Engagement Plan**.
- Child-centered goals setting collaborations with parents will continue at the BOY. Progress monitoring and reporting will occur at the BOY, MOY, and EOY
- Survey parents at least annually on the effectiveness of the prekindergarten experience for their child and their family
- Incorporating goals related to family engagement into the program/campus strategic planning initiatives
- Utilize the "High Quality Pre-Kindergarten Self-Assessment" instrument created by the TEA to include results indicating strengths, opportunities to grow, and next steps for continuous improvement.
- Participation in family involvement activities will be quantitatively documented and monitored at the campus/district levels. Qualitative data will be collected to ensure the specific needs of families are being addressed through surveys. Evaluation results will help in future planning efforts to optimize family involvement within the school and Jim Ned community.