Nordheim ISD Pre-K Family Engagement Plan 2024-2025

# Introduction

At Nordheim ISD, we understand that family engagement is a critical component of student success, especially in the early years of education. Our Pre-K Family Engagement Plan aligns with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines and is designed to foster a collaborative relationship between families and the school. This plan emphasizes the importance of communication, collaboration, and trust to support our youngest learners both at home and in the classroom.

# Goals

1. Enhance Communication: Establish clear and consistent communication channels between families and the school.
2. Promote Collaboration: Encourage family participation in school activities and decision-making processes.
3. Build Trust: Develop a trusting relationship between families and the school through transparency and mutual respect.

# TEA Guiding Principles

• Facilitate family-to-family support
• Establish a network of community resources
• Increase family participation in decision making
• Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning
• Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children’s learning benchmarks
• Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement

# Strategies and Activities

## Communication

• Weekly Newsletters: Distribute a weekly newsletter that includes classroom updates, upcoming events, and tips for supporting learning at home.
• Parent-Teacher Conferences: Schedule regular parent-teacher conferences to discuss student progress, address concerns, and set goals.
• Classroom Apps: Utilize classroom communication apps (e.g., ClassDojo, Remind) to send real-time updates, share photos, and provide reminders.
• Bilingual Communications: Ensure all communications are available in both English and Spanish to accommodate our diverse community.

## Collaboration

• Family Workshops: Offer workshops on topics such as early literacy, numeracy, and positive behavior support. Provide materials and activities that families can use at home.
• Volunteering Opportunities: Create opportunities for families to volunteer in the classroom and at school events. Provide a variety of roles to accommodate different schedules and interests.
• Home Learning Activities: Provide families with simple, engaging activities to reinforce classroom learning at home. Include instructions and necessary materials.
• Family Resource Center: Establish a Family Resource Center with educational materials, parenting resources, and community information.

## Trust Building

• Open House Events: Host open house events at the beginning and throughout the school year to familiarize families with the school environment, meet staff, and learn about the curriculum.
• Family Surveys: Conduct regular surveys to gather feedback from families about their needs, preferences, and experiences. Use this feedback to make informed decisions and improvements.
• Transparent Communication: Ensure transparency by regularly sharing school policies, procedures, and changes with families. Address concerns promptly and respectfully.

## Professional Development

• Staff Training: Provide ongoing professional development for staff on effective family engagement practices and cultural competency.
• Best Practices Sharing: Encourage staff to share best practices and success stories related to family engagement.

# Implementation Timeline

• August:
 - Host a Pre-K Open House to welcome families and introduce them to the school environment.
 - Distribute the first monthly newsletter and introduce the classroom communication app.

• September:
 - Begin weekly newsletters and parent-teacher conferences.
 - Launch the first family workshop focused on early literacy.

• October:
 - Organize a family volunteer day and provide information on ongoing volunteering opportunities.
 - Conduct the first family survey and share the results with the community.

• November:
 - Introduce home learning activities and distribute materials.
 - Host a trust-building event, such as a family picnic or community gathering.

• December:
 - Continue regular communication and workshops.
 - Review feedback and make adjustments as necessary.

# Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

• Monthly Reviews: The Pre-K team will review the engagement activities monthly to assess their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.
• Bi-Annual Surveys: Conduct bi-annual surveys to gather in-depth feedback from families on the engagement plan’s effectiveness.
• Annual Report: At the end of each school year, prepare an annual report summarizing the engagement activities, outcomes, and areas for improvement. Ensure the report complies with TEA reporting requirements.

# Conclusion

By actively engaging families in their children's early education, Nordheim ISD aims to create a supportive and inclusive school community. Through consistent communication, meaningful collaboration, and a foundation of trust, we are committed to fostering the success of our Pre-K students. This plan will be continuously reviewed and improved to meet the evolving needs of our community, ensuring compliance with TEA guidelines and standards.