**Parent Engagement Plan**

*Bonham Prekindergarten School*

# Goal of San Marcos CISD Pre-K Family Engagement Plan

San Marcos CISD believes a Family Engagement Program is the mutual responsibility of families, school, and communities. The goal of the program is to build relationships that support student learning and ensure student achievement. The program will support family well-being by providing continuous learning opportunities for the development of the children, families, and educators. All components of SMCISD Family Engagement Plan will be fully integrated in the child’s educational experience and support the child. In addition, the SMCISD Family Engagement Plan will be culturally and linguistically responsive to the families’ needs, interest, and the well-being of the students.

(A)  Family-Adults responsible for the child's care and children in the child's life who support the early learning and development of the child.

(B)  Family engagement--to support family well-being and the continuous learning and development of children, families, and educators.

# Program Components

1. *Facilitate Family-to-Family Support*
2. *Establish a Network of Community Resources*
3. *Increase Family Participation in Decision Making*

A network for collaboration of mutual partners and community resources will be accomplished by providing ongoing services and support to the parents, care-givers, and family members of the Pre-Kindergarten students enrolled in SMCISD.

The SMCISD Pre-Kindergarten staff along with community-based organizations will maintain a partnership with parents through monthly Parent Meetings, online and printed Monthly Newsletters, Parent Teacher Organization monthly meetings, Twitter account, online website, and quarterly Family Activities.

SMCISD Pre-Kindergarten Parent Program will partner with the local Head Start Agency, Texas State University Professional Counseling Program, San Marcos Chambers of Commerce Education Advisory Board, Lone Star Pediatric Dental office, United Way-Born Learning Program, Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas-ESL Program, Nosotros La Gente, David T. Esparza from Endsley & Association Real Estate, local civic clubs and/or area churches, and local business to assure a range of services and ongoing support for the program’s families. Parents along with key personnel from some of these organizations will form the *Parent Engagement Advisory Council.*

All written and verbal communication provided to parents by SMCISD Pre-Kindergarten Engagement Program will be reflective of home language. Consideration of family needs for transportation and child care will help determine the time and location of planned Parent Meetings and Family Activities. Monthly presentations and program agendas will be driven by family interest and needs.

Parent input will be collected from written surveys, family verbal feedback, and from the *Parent Engagement Advisory Council* recommendations. Parent meeting agendas will include opportunities for parents to become familiar with school age/appropriate academic and social expectations. Meetings will also include ways to improve family engagement, opportunities for families to advocate for their children/family, and opportunities to collaborate with families to develop strategies to solve problems. The program will ensure the school is responsive to the needs of the families and use appropriate tools to ensure the program goals are met. Parent activities will include opportunities to create a variety of home-educational resources which will support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership.

Parents will be welcomed as volunteers and/or visitors in the school and will have a designated meeting place where they can network with other parents. Family support services available through local mental/physical health agencies will be promoted through meetings and communication provided by the SMCISD Parent Engagement Program.

1. *Equip Families with Tool to Enhance and Extend Learning*
2. *Develop Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families*

The SMCISD Pre-Kindergarten Parent Engagement Program provides families with information and/or training that creates a home learning environment connection to formal learning opportunities. It is designed to implement existing home educational resources to support learning at home through *Star Fall* and *ABC mouse* online programs. These online programs can be accessed at home and are designed to help achieve the goals and objectives identified to meet the academic needs of each child.

A goal of SMCISD Pre-Kindergarten campus is to provide a welcoming, safe, and respectful environment, for all students, parents, and community members. A vital component of a successful Parent Engagement Program is the staff’s ability to respond to family members in a timely, respectful, and culturally appropriate manner. Pre-K staff development and school-wide procedures will focus on providing this expectation and the skills needed to address this component. Staff members believe a campus that reflects the principles of the Conscious Discipline Model provide just such an environment. The Conscious Discipline Model encourages the seven skills of: composure, encouragement, assertiveness, choices, empathy, positive intent and consequences. A school that intentionally teaches behaviors that builds on these skills provides a safe, welcoming, and respectful learning community. This goal will be reflected in the planning and implementation of the Parent Engagement Program.

Parent/Family meetings located in a safe environment will allow parents opportunities to reflect on parent experiences, practices, and new strategies, including the rationale and practices associated with the Conscious Discipline Model. This model provides a foundation for staff and parents when they work together to help children develop their social/emotional skills and overcome behavior challenges.

Another resources that will be utilized within the SMCISD Parent Engagement Program will be the Parent Training activities and videos that are provided by CIRCLE. These activities and videos, available online at cliengage.org, are designed to equip parents with the skills to provide age appropriate academic learning activities for families to engage in at home. Each spring before Pre-K students “graduate” to an elementary campus the Family Engagement Program will provide information and suggestions for a smooth transition. School visits will be coordinated with SMCISD five elementary campuses and information regarding school procedures and expectations will be shared. These efforts will ease the anxiety of transition from Pre-K to Elementary.

Active participation in the SMCISD Pre-K Parent Engagement Program will provide families with the training in parent leadership, support, and advocacy. Having these skills and beliefs will have a positive impact on the educational success of their children and their entire family.

The success of the SMCISD Parent Engagement Program will be determined by how well it clearly defines, in collaboration with families, its goals and how well it continually assesses its progress towards meeting the identifies goals. It is important that all families are incited and that procedures are in place to focus on the engagement of families from specific populations to help narrow student achievement gap. Parent/family participation will be monitored and feedback will be critical as the program strives to create an environment that eliminates barriers to parent participation. A well-established Parent Engagement Program should be viewed by staff and families as a dynamic organization that exists to support all facets pertaining to parenting and the current and future educational success of students.

1. *Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Use Evaluation for Continuous Improvement*

Ongoing program evaluation will be monitored and steered by the *Parent Engagement Advisory Council.* This will ensure the evaluation plan is an integral component guiding all procedures, programs, and activities that are promoted through the efforts of the SMCISD Family Engagement Program. In order for the program to be successful all school staff and parents/families will need to understand the value of family engagement and view it as a key to improve teaching and learning. All program decisions will be guided by decisions that assure trainings are culturally responsive, sensitive to diversity, and address the varying needs of families. Meeting monthly the *Parent Engagement Advisory Council* will review all pertinent data regarding attendance, family feedback, staff feedback, and community resources to help drive decisions regarding future meeting and activities. Minutes will be included in Monthly Newsletters that will be posted on the school website and sent home to all parents. Ongoing program evaluation will ensure continuous program improvements.