Pre-K Family Engagement Plan

Introduction

At Wayside, our schools exist to prepare college-ready, community-engaged, global citizens. As our mission statement reads, family and community engagement is highly valued. Family Engagement starts in Pre-K at Wayside! Families are encouraged to take part in their preschooler’s academic careers as partners in education. Daily communication with families and caretakers builds strong and trusting partnerships for Pre-K scholars. Wayside Schools’ Pre-K Family Engagement Plan is in compliance with the Commissioner’s Rule and based on strategies provided by the Texas Education Agency.

Best Practice Strategies

1. Facilitating Family-to-Family Support
   We believe in creating ways for families to come together to create a larger network of support for one another. The following are created for Pre-K parents to build community:
- Provide more time for small groups of families by implementing a staggered start at the beginning of each year.

- Hold a “Meet the Teacher” event before the first week of school to provide families an opportunity to get to know one another.

- Creating a welcoming environment where families can informally gather. The Playground Bunch gathers weekly after school to socialize while supervising fun on the playground.

- Events such as Carnival Night, Fall Fest, Spring Fling, are just a few of the times in the year for families to have fun with one another.

- Wayside also builds connections for the Spanish speaking community by organizing communication assistance like translations on our Website, Facebook, Mail Chimp text messages, phone calls, and campus and classroom newsletters.

- Monthly PTA/PTO meetings

- Class field trips invite parents to come together as a community to support outside learning together.

2. Establishing a Network of Community Resources

Our Elementary Campuses are a wealth of information for community resources for our Pre-K parents and all parents on our campuses. We support our youngest scholars and their families by:

- Screening for hearing and vision and provided assistance with eyewear through the Half Helen and St. David’s Foundation Program.
• Providing dental services to those in need with the St. David’s Foundation

• Have community members come and provide information

• Facilitate referrals for needed services such as immunizations

• Assisting families in using public libraries through card registrations

• Access to campus Counselors for services available to families in the community

• Free breakfast and lunch for all scholars, regardless of income, is provided through a Community Eligibility Provision through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

3. Increasing Family Participation in Decision-Making

It is important that families of our youngest scholars have the opportunity to give input and help make collective decisions for our schools and our network. We provide the following opportunities for Pre-K parents and guardians to participate and provide insightful and constructive feedback:

• School and Network surveys which ask families to give input on school and network decisions

• Campus Improvement Plan Committees

• District Improvement Plan Committees

• PTA/PTO committees
• Nominations for Staff All Means All Award

• Educate our families regarding their rights under the State and Federal Law for Special Education, 504 and English Learners.

4. Equipping Families With Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning

Families are provided with resources to help enhance and extend the academic learning environment in the home. Below are some resources for Pre-K families at home:

• CLI Engage for families - https://cliengagefamily.org/
• Campus Literacy night
• Encouraging parents to be classroom volunteers
• Classroom Newsletters
• Parent-Teacher conferences and report cards

5. Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting Their Children’s Learning Benchmark

Wayside Schools provides the following trainings for Pre-K teachers in order to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of our scholars while keeping in close communication with families on that progress:

• Ethics compliance courses –ESC10
• CLASS coaching provided by United Way
• Class Dojo

• Training on Pre-K Curriculum

• Familiarize instructional staff with the Early Childhood Professional Development opportunities on CLIEngage.org for opportunities to credential and receive High-Quality training

6. Evaluating Family Engagement Efforts and Using Evaluations for Continuous Improvements

At Wayside Schools we continuously want to improve. Each year families of Pre-K scholars will get the opportunity to give us feedback on our early childhood program. These are some of the ways we get programming evaluations at Wayside:

• Conduct a Self-Assessment Pre-K Program Evaluation at the end of the year, following TEA recommended template

• Use collaborative goal-setting meetings/Campus Improvement Plan meetings

• Use of surveys

• Coffee with the Principal

In Conclusion:

The journey toward an IB diploma starts in early childhood. Teachers, parents and our Wayside community are the key members in making this happen for our scholars. We embrace the ongoing relationship and
continuous collaboration between all members to achieve this very important goal. Parent participation and feedback are key pieces in our continuous improvement cycle to achieve a high performing early childhood program.