2024-2025 Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Sherman Elementary

1909 McKee St

Houston TX 77007

Principal: Dr. Racquel Rosenbalm

Assistant Principal: Evelyn Gudiel

1. **Facilitate family-to-family support**
   Create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups;

   Invite former program participants, including families and community volunteers, to share their education and career experiences with current families; and

   Ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families; and

   Ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events for families by families such as training on family leadership
   o Campus Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC)

   o District Community Meetings

   o Title I Campus Meetings

   o Volunteer opportunities through VIPS

   o District FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Department sponsored activities

2. **Establish a network of community resources**

   Build strategic partnerships;

   Leverage community resources

   Establish and maintain partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies;

   Identify support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers;

   Partner with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings;

   Provide and facilitate referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs;

   Communicate short and long-term goals to all stakeholders; and

   Identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language

   o Children's Museum of Houston Family Learning Events
   o Children's Museum of Houston Free Thursday Night events
   o Houston Public Library Partnership- Every HISD student receives a library card
   o District Family Support Services
   o District and Campus Health Fairs
   o Special Education Parent Summit
   o Campus Parent and Family Engagement: Skill building for parents and families- financial literacy, etc.
   o FACE Community Resource Guide http://www.houstonisd.org/communityresource
   o Lakeshore Learning Free Saturday Learning Events
   o Breakfast in the classroom and summer meals programs
   o Summer School and Campus Enrichment Programs

3. **Increase family participation in decision making**

   Develop and support a family advisory council;

   Develop, adopt, and implement identified goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement;

Develop and support leadership skills for family members and providing opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families;

Collaborate with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers;

Engage families in shaping program activities and cultivating the expectation that information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication;

Develop in collaboration with families, clearly defined goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress;

Provide 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; and

Uses appropriate tools such as surveys or focus groups to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan
o Title I Parent Advisory Committee Meetings and Campus Parent Compact
o Campus Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC)
o PTA/PTO Participation
o District Parent Satisfaction Survey
o District Social Media Opportunities
o District Surveys

4. **Equip families with tolls to enhance and extend learning**
   Design or implementing existing home 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 pre-k 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 development 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
   o Full day Pre-K o Parent Online Access to Grade Level Curriculum and Resources
   o Parent Connect Access to student grades
   o Campus registration activities to support Ready Rosie o Access to the HUB for online textbook access
   o Campus Early Literacy and Math Family Nights
   o Parent Notification of Performance- PK CIRCLE results, etc.
   o Progress Reports and Report Cards
   o Campus Open House Social Media Technology- District and Campus Websites, Facebook, Twitter, Campus apps: Class Dojo o Campus-Scheduled Home Visits
   o Campus Based After-School Programs and Tutorials o Parent Communication in English and Spanish
   o District automated phone calls and texts regarding district/campus events
   o Recommendation of free apps that students can access at home to continue to skill build and practice

o Parent access to grading rubrics to better understand expectations.
o Gifted and Talented Expo to Showcase Student Learning
o Character Education through Rethink Curriculum o College & Career Awareness

5. **Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks.**
   Provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis;

   Promote and developing 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
   o Counseling and Guidance Support
   o Engaging families in Children's Literacy Development- Training Binder for each Campus
   o CIRCLE assessment training for all PK Teachers- including the parent component
   FACE Department trainings, Fundamental Communication; twoway communication, parent-teacher conferences, and customer service training
   o Title I Part A Parent Engagement activities
   o FACE Family Friendly Schools Manual
   o FACE Family Friendly Schools Campus Certification Program
   o FACE Family and Community Engagement Campus Action Teams
   o FACE Family Learning Academics

6. **Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement.**
   Conduct goal-oriented home visits to identify strengths, interests and needs;

   Develop data collection systems to monitor family engagement and focus on engagement of families from specific populations to narrow the achievement gap;

   Use data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement; Ensure an evaluation plan is an initial component that guides action;

   Use a cyclical process to ensure evaluation results are used for continuous improvement and adjustment; and

   Ensure teachers play a role in the family engagement process
   o District parent survey feedback to evaluate and improve services for the next school year
   o Perception data
   o Parent participation data
   o Annual Title I Part A Parent Engagement Survey/Log/Documentation
   o TEA Evaluation Support Tool