

Carver Early Childhood Center
Pre-kindergarten Family Engagement Plan
2019-2020

Carver Early Childhood Center believes the education of all students takes place with the inclusion of an effective school, caring staff, and with the involvement of our parent community. Both the school and the parent community are interdependent on one another.

The Carver campus leadership team has created and approved this family engagement plan that reflects best practices, strategies, & goals to enhance parent and community involvement in order to support the social and academic needs of Carver's early learners.

Carver's family engagement plan consists of the following 6 components outlined in House Bill 4 High Quality prekindergarten grant established in subsection (b):

1. Facilitate family to family support

- Create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups
 - Establish norms and adhere to the expectations of the campus STAR Culture (Safety, Trust, +Attitude, Respect, & Responsibility)
- Gather parent feedback via BOY and EOY surveys
- Communicate in each client's preferred language (mostly English or Spanish)
- Include specific goals in the Campus Improvement Plan to target parental involvement
- Provide in-district supports, such as:
 - Parent orientation in August before school begins
 - EISD Family Resource Center trainings with the parent liaison
 - Based on parent needs noted in surveys
 - Cultural awareness trainings at Carver
 - Head Start parent trainings
 - Health Fair
 - Monthly coffee talks with the principal and/or counselor to discuss various topics related to education and children ages 4-5.
- Provide out-of-district supports, such as:
 - Health screenings and supplemental resources for low-income families
 - Dental and medical presentations to students and parents in Head Start
- Student award assemblies
- Election of parent officers for multiple committees
- Special event nights for families (Science Night, Movie Night, Culture Night)

- Volunteer Program
- Field Trips
- PTO meetings
- Provide translations as needed for non-English speaking clients

2. Establish a network of community resources

- Link families with support systems, peer to peer groups, bilingual translators, and various resources depending on family needs
- Communicate short and long term program goals to all stakeholders
- Utilizing the EISD Family Resource Center and Parent Liaison for connecting families with available resources and trainings
- Partnerships with community based organizations, such as but not limited to: ACH Child and Family Services, Give a Kid a Chance church sponsored school supplies program, church sponsored Angel Tree Program, Public Library, and Helping Hands for items like food, clothes and shoes
- Meet the Teacher Night
- Trained LPAC parent representative
- Ennis Showcase participation
- 'Enrollment Days' during the months of March-August
- Head Start recruitment process

3. Increase family participation in decision making

- Opportunities for family members of students to serve on committees and focus groups to be advocates, leaders, and liaisons to the community
- Parent conferences days (Oct, Jan, May)
- Social media, campus webpage, bi-lingual flyers, teachers' websites, & weekly newsletter
- Provide follow-up feedback opportunity through an end of the year survey on family engagement opportunities and the Family Engagement Plan

4. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning

- Listen to parents before speaking to gain an understanding of their needs or situation
- Approach parents as equal partners in their child's education while emphasizing parents as the child's first teacher
- Provide parent engagement ideas and learning activities for families to do at home in the areas of literacy, math, science, fine and gross motor, and independence through information shared in newsletters, online technology, social media, parent/teacher conferences, and or other school related events.

- Provide training to families to appropriately respond to children's behavior in a non-punitive, positive, and supportive way.
- Carver will host family education nights and parent trainings during the day with topics like: Pre-K orientation and awareness, emergent readers, math literacy, behavior, and health/hygiene tips
- Assist parents with transition support for their young learners
- Provide many opportunities for Pre-K and Kindergarten Round-up to enroll students for the next year
- Academic reports for parents on their student's progress: CLI, Lexia, ESGI, and Dream Box
- Provide a room with personal computers so family members can apply for various assistance programs and in some cases employment

5. Develop staff skills in evidence based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks

- Train and develop the staff on cultural proficiency so there is an appropriate response to each of our client's cultures.
- Teachers make at least 10 positive parent phone calls each nine weeks to inform parents of student accomplishments on a more informal level.

6. Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement

- Conduct at least two parent conferences to identify strengths, interest and needs
- Use data to monitor for effective & continuous family engagement
- Ensure teachers play a role in the family engagement evaluation process
- Invite family members to be volunteers in our classrooms