

MALONE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN



Welcoming All Families ~ Supporting Student Success



THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

**MALONE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
PLAN**

OVERVIEW

Family engagement is defined as the mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement and to support family wellbeing and the continuous learning and development of children, families, and educators. Family engagement is fully integrated in the child's educational experience and supports the whole child and is both culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate. TAC §102.1003

It has long been recognized by both researchers and practitioners that family engagement plays a non-negotiable role in education. It is no longer a suggestion, but rather a mandate, in Texas, with the passage of House Bill 4 in 2015. TEC §29.168, created by HB 4, 84th Texas Legislature, 2015, requires a school district or charter school to develop and implement a **Family Engagement Plan** to assist the district in achieving and maintaining high levels of family involvement and positive family attitudes toward education. The local **Family Engagement Plan** must be based on the family engagement strategies established by TEA in collaboration with other state agencies.

According to TEA, the goal of TAC §102.1003, High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program, is to “provide districts with an opportunity to expand or enhance high-quality prekindergarten programs for qualifying students.” This ruling also outlines school district and charter school eligibility for grant funding and qualifications for students eligible to receive instruction under the grant program. The new High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program requires school districts and charter schools to meet the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines (updated 2015).

The proposal also identifies in rule the family engagement strategies that districts and charter schools are required to address in a **Family Engagement Plan** in order to be eligible to receive grant funding under this program. TEA has identified six family engagement strategies which must be incorporated into the local **Family Engagement Plan**.

MALONE ISD FAMILY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

1. Facilitate family-to-family support.

- Malone ISD has identified this as a need and wants to establish more opportunities for parent-to-parent training and parent-to-parent support.
- Malone ISD intends to develop parent to parent networks and programs to expand family and parent engagement activities with parent volunteers.
- A Migrant Liaison provided by the Region 12 Educational Service Center provides bi-monthly services to district migrant students.
- Parent education for parents of children receiving special education services is offered annually. This provides a form of communication for parents to play an active role in their child's educational planning.
- Grant resources will be used to expand parent education offerings so that all families of Pre-K children will have opportunities to participate and become engaged in their child's education.
- Family Outreach Programs will offer family-to-family interaction and support that revolves around school activities.
- The Malone ISD will host monthly luncheons and holiday socials to offer opportunities for parents and community members to interact and form support networks.
- The District Advisory Committee (DAC) and Campus Advisory Committees (CAC) provide opportunities for parents to interact and network with other parents interested in supporting public education in our community.
- Malone ISD ensures opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families such as: Fall Festival, annual Christmas Program, Veteran's Day speakers and luncheon, STEM Fair, Family Fun Night, class parties, and field trips.

2. Establish a network of family resources.

- Malone ISD has created a partnership with Malone Baptist Church as a resource to provide services to assist students and families.
- Malone ISD has created partnership with the Hill County Extension Agency to provide educational programming to students and families.
- Training was provided to Malone ISD staff by the Klaras Center for Families on mental health first aid and detection.

- Malone ISD hosts a PreK Roundup annually that promotes the transition from a home or daycare environment to a high-quality Pre-Kindergarten Program.
- Malone ISD will host a Family Outreach Program to communicate short and long-term goals to all stakeholders and to address family interests and needs.
- Malone ISD provides translators and culturally relevant resources in English and Spanish.

3. Increase family participation in decision making.

- Malone ISD has established a strong foundation of collaboration with parents and community partners. The district offers multiple parent and community involvement opportunities each school year including:
 - Campus Planning Committee
 - School Health and Wellness Committee
 - Language Proficiency Advisory Committee
 - Parent Advisory Council
 - Community School Organization
- Parents are provided an opportunity to discuss school issues and provide input through various campus meetings or activities.

The District Advisory Committee boasts multiple community leaders and parents as active and participating members. These meetings are also well attended and allow parents a voice in local education decision-making.

- Parents will be represented on each Campus Advisory Committee and will be involved in the writing of the Campus Improvement Plan.
- Malone ISD will consult with parents and families to jointly develop/revise, agree upon and distribute the District and Campus Parental Involvement Policies.
- Each Title I, Part A campus has a School-Parent Compact that outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students share responsibility for improved student achievement and by what means the school and parents will build and develop a partnership describing how parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The School-Parent Compact will be distributed to all Title I parents and families.
- Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through surveys and through postings on the district's website.
- Nutritious refreshments/snacks and drinks, including coffee will be offered at most parent meetings for parent convenience and to promote attendance.

4. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning.

- Malone ISD will continue to offer full day Pre-K to eligible students, enhancing and extending socialization and facilitating parent involvement for Pre-K parents.
- Program suggestions specific to Pre-Kinder from parents and staff include:
 - Pre-K Meet the Teacher Night,
 - Parent-teacher conferences with Pre-K parents,
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Fair
- Malone ISD equips families with tools to enhance and extend learning through our partnership with the Children's Learning Institute that is provided at Meet the Teacher Night. The CLI Engage platform provides online interactive tutorials for parents offering deeper understanding about child development. The developmental milestone checklist birth to 8 years helps parents measure their child's intellectual, physical, and social/emotional growth and development. MISD teaches restorative discipline practices to appropriately respond to children's behavior in a non-punitive, positive, and supportive way. Classrooms are safe and students have an opportunity to work independently in centers.
- Each class will publish a newsletter to keep parents informed of important information including progress reports, report cards, test results, new programming options, and suggestions for parents to become involved in their child's education.
- A monthly calendar will be published which will include a calendar of events along with other pertinent parent and family information.
- Parents will be notified of their right to request and receive information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers. (Parent/Student Handbook)
- Written notice will be provided to a parent or guardian of each student in the classroom in which an inappropriately certified or uncertified teacher is assigned for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during a school year. (Parent/Student Handbook)
- Information will be provided to parents in a format and language they understand. All parent communication will be offered in English and Spanish.
- Malone ISD utilizes School Messenger, which is an automated telephone notification system. Parents receive a weekly telephone call reminding them of upcoming campus events and meetings.
- Parents will be provided frequent reports on student progress. Report cards and school assessment results are sent home each 6 weeks.

- Parents will be provided information about the level of achievement of the child in each of the required state academic assessments in the final report card or as soon as practicable.

-Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR) will be disseminated to parents. This report will also be posted on the MISD website for public access.

- Formal parent/teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year. School-parent compacts are discussed during these conferences at Title I campuses. Conferences are available anytime as needed by parents or teachers. An appointment may be made by calling the school office.
- Title I parent involvement activities will be coordinated with parent involvement activities of other programs such as Pre-K, ESL, and Migrant whenever feasible. Multiple family engagement activities will be offered throughout the school year. These activities will be documented by sign-in, agenda, and minutes (as appropriate).
- Enrolling students will complete the Home Language Survey.
- Malone ISD will provide outreach to parents and families of LEP/Immigrant students and inform them how they can be involved in the education of their children and assist their children attain English proficiency, not later than 30 calendar days after the beginning of the school year or within the first two weeks of the child being placed in a language instruction program when the child was not identified prior to the beginning of the school year.
- Malone ISD will promote parental and community participation in programs for LEP, Title III, Part A.
- Parents and families of LEP/Immigrant students will be notified within 30 days if MISD fails to meet annual measurable achievement objectives.
- The LEA Homeless Liaison will inform parents/guardians of homeless students of the educational opportunities and other services available to the child (Identification of homeless students usually occurs at registration but can occur at any time during the school year as family situations change).

5. Provide professional development opportunities for educators on culturally responsive, evidence-based strategies that support the education of the child.

- Pre-K teachers' staff development plans will include strands on cultural diversity, evidence-based strategies to involve parents in the education of their children, and

family poverty as it impacts schools. One cannot assume that teachers or parents come to the table with a knowledge and appreciation for cultural diversity or with the skills needed to customize learning to students with diverse cultural backgrounds. These skills can and must be taught, monitored, and reinforced.

- Malone ISD staff will be educated in the value and utility of the contributions of parents, and in building ties between parents and schools. Families will also have opportunities to be included in family engagement training.
- Educators participate in professional learning communities and complete online eCIRCLE courses through the Children's Learning Institute and professional development through Education Service Center 12.

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

- Malone ISD currently uses parent surveys to gain information on preferences of programs and parents' perception of program effectiveness. Surveys are completed each spring to gather information to plan for the next school year. Several additional campus-specific surveys are fielded each year depending on campus needs. Valuable information gathered from family surveys is used to improve programs and increase parent outreach and involvement.
- Malone ISD will conduct an annual evaluation and review of the content of and effectiveness of the Title I, Part A Parent Involvement Program and Parental Involvement Policy. Parents and families will be involved in this review, aimed at improving the academic quality of Title I, Part A Schools.
- Comprehensive Needs Assessment - Family engagement efforts will be evaluated on a continuous basis to determine whether the level of participation has increased and if activities meet the needs of parents. Programs and activities will be constantly monitored, identifying strengths and weaknesses, in order to affect change at the earliest possible date to assure program effectiveness.
- Parents and families will be consulted in the development, review/revision, and evaluation of the Campus Improvement Plans and District Improvement Plan through the CACs and DAC at the end of each school year in order to address needs and goals for the upcoming year.