

GRUVER ISD KINDERGARTEN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2021

The GRUVER ISD Family Engagement Plan supports the district's position that a child's family is an essential part of the child's physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development. The importance of the family's role in preparing a child for school and then supporting them throughout the early years of school and beyond has been well-supported by research. At GRUVER ISD, we recognize and value a strong and healthy relationship with each Kindergarten student's family. This emphasis on family engagement is communicated in our district vision and mission statements. Family members are encouraged to become involved with their child's Kindergarten experience. Likewise, the school commits to involving families in their child's education. These strategies are outlined in the district's Family Engagement Plan. The GRUVER ISD Family Engagement Plan has been developed to foster an impactful partnership between the school, the families of our students, and our community. It is developed in accordance with Rider 78 and Commissioner's Rule 102.1003(f) and describes how we will work together to maximize the potential and the achievement of every Kindergarten student.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The GRUVER ISD Family Engagement Plan is based on the following Guiding Principles for Quality Family Engagement (TEA, 2018):

1. Fostering Reciprocal Relationships

The families of GRUVER ISD's Kindergarten students are a valued source of information about their child's development and learning needs. As such, GRUVER ISD strives to establish a relationship with parents that is based on trust, respect, and two-way communication.

2. Orientation Toward Positive Child Outcomes

All of the activities and strategies included in the GRUVER ISD Family Engagement Plan are developed to promote positive educational outcomes for the child and will help to communicate the expectations for students in GRUVER ISD's High Quality Kindergarten Program. All family engagement policies and practices will consider the information that families, teachers, and student achievement data contribute to the overall picture of the child's needs.

3. Connecting to Family, Community, and School Needs

GRUVER ISD's Family Engagement Plan considers the needs of the child's family, the community, and the school. Multiple sources of information are used to identify the practices and policies needed to meet the collective needs of all stakeholders in the district's Kindergarten program.

4. Planning with Family Input and Involvement

Part of GRUVER ISD's endeavor to effectively involve the families of Kindergarten students is to assist families in developing their own ability and confidence to become and remain involved with their child's education. We believe that the best approach for ensuring that the district's efforts to involve families in a meaningful way requires practices that include families in the ongoing improvement of family engagement efforts.

5. Being Culturally and Linguistically Responsive

GRUVER ISD values the culture and language of its Kindergarten students and their families. We believe that a diverse and inclusive atmosphere will result from family engagement efforts that capitalize on the rich cultural contributions of our student and their families to the educational process. Our family engagement efforts will be focused on cultural and linguistic responsiveness so that all families – regardless of language or culture – will feel like welcomed, valued, and competent partners in their children’s education.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

The GRUVER ISD Family Engagement Plan contains six components that ensure that family engagement is completely integrated into the child’s Kindergarten experience. The components also develop families, the community, and the school as mutual partners in early childhood education, while also recognizing and honoring the individuality and uniqueness of families. The six components are:

Facilitating Family-to-Family Support

GRUVER ISD will create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other.

- Meet the Teacher
- Open House
- Pizza For Parents (Survey)
- PTO Meetings
- Fall Carnival
- CLI Parent Portal
- Kindergarten Rodeo
- Halloween and Valentine class parties

Establishing a Network of Community Resources

GRUVER ISD will build strategic partnerships and leverage community resources that support families.

- City Library
- Open Door
- Food Pantry
- Year Round Church Activities
- Ministerial Alliance
- County wide Summer Activities
- Child Find

Increasing Family Participation in Decision-Making

GRUVER ISD will invest in the capacity of families to engage in program decision-making and self-advocacy.

- Parent Conferences
- Parent Survey

Equipping Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning

GRUVER ISD will provide the support and resources families need to create a learning environment at home.

- Monthly Newsletter
- CLI Engage Website
- Apps
- City Library
- End of Year Packet Activities
- County Library Summer Reading Program

Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting Their Children's Learning Benchmarks

GRUVER ISD staff will be trained in areas such as:

- Stewards of Children
- Early Childhood Conference
- Reading Academy
- Circle Progress Monitoring
- Istation
- Waterford
- Other

Evaluating Family Engagement Efforts and Using Evaluations for Continuous Improvement

GRUVER ISD will ensure ongoing improvement of family engagement by collecting, analyzing, and aligning data to family engagement policies and activities. The Evaluation Committee will review data such as:

- Progress Monitoring Data
- TPRI
- Parent surveys
- Additional Data Available

CONCLUSION

GRUVER ISD believes that family engagement in High Quality Kindergarten classrooms is the responsibility of schools, families and communities. The district’s Family Engagement Plan strives to facilitate positive student outcomes for our preschool learners, while fostering family well-being and the ongoing development of children, their families and their teachers. The Plan will only work if all partners work together. GRUVER ISD is committed to the success of every kindergarten student and their families. As an invaluable part of everything we strive to accomplish for kindergarten students, we encourage families to take every opportunity to participate in family engagement activities, and to do their part in developing healthy, respectful, and trusting relationships with the district. Working together, there is no limit to the success GRUVER ISD’s Kindergarten students can experience!

Resources

Texas Education Agency, 2018. *High-Quality Prekindergarten Components: Writing a Family Engagement Plan*

Texas Education Agency, 2018. *High-Quality Prekindergarten Programs: Family Engagement Plan – Strategies in Action*

Family Engagement Committee Members

Name	Role (parent, teacher, community member, etc.)
Amber Holland	Principal <i>Amber Holland</i>
Andi Travis	PK Teacher <i>Andi Travis</i>
Lori Sparks	Kindergarten Teacher <i>Lori Sparks</i>
Cassidy Livengood	Kindergarten Teacher <i>Cassidy Livengood</i>

Marsha Lowe	Former Private Daycare Director and Teacher	<i>Marsha Lowe</i>
Julie Stedje	Speech Therapist	<i>Julie Stedje</i>
Sahala Gaillard	School Nurse	<i>Sahala Gaillard</i>
Cyndy Suchil	Parent Member	<i>Cyndy Suchil</i>