



Highland Park ISD

## Family Engagement Plan

### For High Quality Pre-Kindergarten

The Highland Park 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 Highland Park ISD, we recognize and value a strong and healthy relationship with each Pre-K student's family. This emphasis on family engagement is communicated in our Elementary Commitment Statement: At Highland Park Elementary, we believe in order to teach the mind we must first touch the heart. We are committed to building strong character and are passionate about creating a school where every child is valued, respected, and given opportunities for life-long success. We believe in order to build strong character family involvement is essential. As a child's first and best teachers, family members are encouraged to become involved with their child's Pre-K experience by consistently communicating with their child's teacher. Likewise, the school commits to involving families in their child's education by being open to parent communication and inviting families to school events/activities. These strategies are outlined in the district's Family Engagement Plan. The Highland Park 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 Pre-K student.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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

### 1. Fostering Reciprocal Relationships

The families of Highland Park ISD Pre-K students are a valued source of information about their child's development and learning needs. As such, Highland Park 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 Highland Park ISD Family Engagement Plan are developed to promote positive educational outcomes for the child and will help to communicate the expectations for students in Highland Park ISD's High Quality Pre-K 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

Highland Park'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 Pre-K program.

#### **4. Planning with Family Input and Involvement**

Part of Highland Park ISD's endeavor to effectively involve the families of Pre-K 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**

Highland Park ISD values the culture and language of its Pre-K 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 students and their families to the educational process. Our family engagement efforts will be focused on cultural and linguistic responsiveness so that all families will feel like welcomed, valued, and competent partners in their children's education (regardless of language or culture)

### **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS**

The Highland Park ISD Family Engagement Plan contains six components that ensure that family engagement is completely integrated into the child's pre-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**

Highland Park ISD will create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other by:

- Facilitating Group Connections at the beginning, middle and end of the year.

#### **Establishing a Network of Community Resources**

Highland Park ISD will build strategic partnerships and leverage community resources that support families by:

- Our district partnerships with community resources already exist therefore our role is to connect families to these resources. Should a need arise, we will refer/connect our families to appropriate resources through our campus counselor, Parents as Teachers program or our student/family advocate.

#### **Increasing Family Participation in Decision-Making**

Highland Park ISD will invest in the capacity of families to engage in program decision-making and self-advocacy by:

- An advisory committee will be formed consisting of parents, community members, and staff members to develop and revise the HPISD Parental Involvement Policy along with our district and campus plans. The need for volunteers to serve on this committee will be publicized and then volunteers will be selected. The advisory committee will convene at a time and place convenient to all its members.

#### **Equipping Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning**

Highland Park ISD will provide the support and resources families need to create a learning environment at home by:

- Annually HPISD will assess the needs of the parents and children in the school community using a variety of tools including a survey or questionnaire. The findings will be used to address our current needs. Workshops or other trainings will be made available to educators and parents to address these needs. Parents will be notified about training opportunities through the district’s website at [www.hpisd.net](http://www.hpisd.net).

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

- Highland Park ISD will provide professional development for staff in effective communication and culturally responsive family engagement through:
  - Weekly collaboration, trainings at Region 16, Eduhero, and CLI Engage (Circle) requirements including webinars

### **Evaluating Family Engagement Efforts and Using Evaluations for Continuous Improvement**

Highland Park ISD will ensure ongoing improvement of family engagement by collecting, analyzing, and aligning data to family engagement policies and activities. This will be accomplished through:

- Surveys, parent sign-in sheets, classroom observations, and assessment data
- These will be used to determine the needs and develop revised strategies for student success.

### **CONCLUSION**

Highland Park ISD believes that family engagement in High Quality Pre-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. Highland Park ISD is committed to the success of every Pre-K students and their families. As an invaluable part of everything we strive to accomplish for Pre-K 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 Highland Park ISD Pre-K 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*

### **Timeline for Family Engagement Plan Review/Revision**

Highland Park ISD plans to convene a committee to review and revise, if necessary, the Family Engagement Plan.