

CSCISD Family Engagement Mission Statement

Our mission is to engage, educate and empower families, community and professional staff to facilitate effective family and community partnerships that foster the academic and personal development of all students so that they may graduate college and career ready.

CSCISD Family Engagement Vision Statement

CSCISD will be an innovative leader to ensure that all families, educators, and community members become partners in the life-long success of all students by empowering all participants and giving them the skills and knowledge to be active, well-informed contributors in our students' education.

CSCISD Family Engagement Goals

- Student Achievement: Workshops that promote student academic achievement.
- Parent & Advocacy: Workshops that outline methods that will effectively enhance parenting and leadership skills for families
- Personal and Individual Growth: Workshops that will support personal and professional growth of parents and families

Carrizo Springs Elementary family engagement plan creates a foundation for the collaboration of mutual partners, embraces the individuality and uniqueness of families, and promotes a culture of learning that is child-centered, age appropriate, and family-driven.

Carrizo Springs Elementary
Pre-Kinder High Quality Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan
2018-2019

#1 Family to Family Support

CSE will:

- A. Create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals or groups**

Strategies:

- * CSE ensures that all families can learn by providing all materials sent home in English and Spanish.
- * CSE will host a Meet the Teacher Block Party on Friday, August 17, 2018, 5:30-7:00 P.M. to give families the opportunity to get to know one another.
- *CSE will provide Pre-Kinder families with a welcoming space for parents to gather and talk informally with one another.
- *CSE will provide a space for families to explore various types of and backgrounds. Parents will be able to check out books from the Parent Resource room.

- B. Ensuring opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families such as training on family leadership**

Strategies:

- *Hosting events that bring families together such as block parties, sing-alongs, family fun nights, and open house.
- *Organizing activities that include families.

#2 Establish a network of community resources using strategies such as:

CSE will:

- A. Build partnerships**
- B. Leveraging community resources**

- C. Establishing and maintaining partnerships with businesses, faith based organizations, and community agencies;**
- D. Identifying support from various agencies, including mental health and physical health**

Strategies:

- Providing up-to-date written information on community resources (example: adult GED classes, community health organizations, recreational options, resale shops, social service organizations, etc.) Make sure the information is in the family's home language.
- Maintaining a Community Resource Handbook that identifies where services such as housing, health services, legal assistance, domestic violence services, etc. can be found.
- Provide Pre-kinder families with a community resource once a month, giving family members the opportunity to interact with community resources more conveniently.
- Making active referrals with families (calling with the family, bringing intake workers from other programs to meet with families) that include making a personal connection between families and services providers.
- Assisting families in getting and using a library card.
- Encouraging staff to build relationships with workers in community programs to enhance the effectiveness of referrals.
- Following up with families on referrals to see if services were received and parents were satisfied.

#3 Increase family participation in decision-making strategies such as:

CSE will:

A. Developing and supporting a family advisory council

Strategies:

*Providing training for families on how to advocate for themselves and their children.

- * Creating an environment in the program that affirms parent leadership.
- *Identifying a parent to represent the pre-kinder program at elementary school functions.
- *Using parents as equal partners with staff in reviewing family engagement survey results and making decisions regarding plans for continuous improvement.

B. Developing, adopting, and implementing identified goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement

Strategy:

- *Giving the advisory council the lead decision making role in specific items each year. (Family engagement calendar)

C. Developing and supporting leadership skills for family members and providing opportunities for families to advocate for their child/families

Strategy:

- *Educating families about their rights under State and Federal law regarding the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

D. Using appropriate tool such as surveys or focus groups to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan

Strategy:

- *Using an intake questionnaire at the beginning of the school year so that teachers can learn about the children in their classroom from their parents' perspective and begin some mutual goal setting with each individual family.

#4 Equip families with tool to enhance and extend learning using strategies such as:

CSE will:

A. Design or implement existing home educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership

Strategies:

- *Doing an annual survey at the beginning of the school year to identify parents' talents, skills, and cultural traditions that they would be willing to share with the classroom.
- *Sending home, a monthly calendar of activities that can be done at home for little or no cost that correspond with the activities done in the classroom.
- *Conferencing with families at least twice during the school year and collaborating with them in setting goals for their children while in the prekindergarten program.
- *Utilizing a parent bulletin board to share information on upcoming school and community events and to focus on a monthly child development topic.

B. Providing families with information and/ or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities

Strategies:

- *Providing workshops for parents that focus on common child development topics (Health, child guidance, how the young child learns, etc.
- *Encouraging family members to volunteer in the classroom, using the time to foster enhanced communication regarding their child's development.

C. Equipping 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 prekindergarten school year

Strategy:

*Providing workshops for parents that focus on common child development topics (Health, child guidance, how the young child learns, etc.)

D. Providing 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

Strategy:

*Using technology that is family-friendly to enhance parents' knowledge on child development topics. (Ex: Ready Rosie, Daily Vroom, etc.)

E. Providing families with information, best practices, and training related to age-appropriate developmental expectations

Strategies:

*Utilizing a "Parent Lending Library" where parents can check out items (books, games, art supplies, puzzles, etc.) to be used at their homes to assist their children in learning.

*Hosting a Family Night centered around a topic that interests everyone. Plan activities for both adults and children of varying ages. (siblings will want to participate too)

F. Emphasizing benefits of positive family practices such as attachment and nurturing that complement the stages of children's development.

Strategy:

*Using www.families.naeyc.org as a resource for research-based, family-friendly, written information on child development topics.

#5 Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks using strategies such as:

CSE will:

A. Provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis

Strategies:

- *Role playing ways to interact with parents on a daily basis at a staff meeting to brainstorm new ideas in enhancing communication with parents.
- *Providing training for educators on how to respond to families that are in a crisis.
- *Making space available for staff to meet with parents privately.
- *Training educators about the resources that are available in the community that support families' interests and needs (ex: safety, housing stability, employment, job skills, financial literacy, health, etc.).
- *Providing professional development opportunities that are grounded in a strengths-based approach to family engagement.
- *Providing professional development opportunities focused on professional ethics as it relates to family engagement (ex: boundaries, confidentiality, etc.).
- *Providing professional development that is effective in developing skills in working with families. Topics could include: engaging fathers, communication styles, parenting practices, understanding and responding to your child's behavior, etc.).

B. Promoting and developing family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff

C. Developing staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies

Strategies:

- *Brainstorming areas where parents can play the leading role in decision-making within the classroom.
- *Training children to greet and say goodbye to parents and their classmates as a means to show respect for all program participants.
- *Using developmentally appropriate activities to help children understand differences in families, cultures and traditions.
- *Providing professional development that focuses on how culture can influence perspectives on child-rearing, such as: communication styles, role of

professionals, caregiving (sleeping, eating, toileting), discipline, language and learning.

#6 Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement using strategies such as:

CSE will:

A. Conducting goal-oriented home visits to identify strengths, interests, and needs

Strategies:

- *Setting child-centered goals with parents at the beginning of the school year. Check in with them several times during the school year to discuss the progress that has been made in achieving the mutually-developed goals.
- * We will progress monitor the parents through the Parent Feedback form that is sent home at the BOY MOY and EOY of the school year.

B. Developing data collection systems to monitor family engagement and focusing on engagement of families from specific populations to narrow the achievement gap

Strategy:

- *Surveying parents at least annually on the effectiveness of the prekindergarten experience for their child and their family.

C. Using data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement

Strategy:

- *Incorporating goals related to family engagement into the program's strategic planning initiatives.

D. Ensuring an evaluation plan is an initial component that guides action

***Ensuring teachers play a role in the family engagement evaluation process**

Strategies:

- *Using the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Program Self-Assessment Checklist annually to evaluate the program's effectiveness in family engagement.
- *High Quality Prekindergarten Self-Assessment.
- *Data gathered is used for continuous improvement goal setting.