

## **Sabinal Independent School District Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan**

The mission of Sabinal Independent School District is “Making excellence an everyday event”. Critical to the district mission is providing equitable opportunity for youngsters to receive an excellent educational foundation, which can be achieved for many, particularly low-income students, through participation in a high-quality pre-kindergarten program.

According to a study published by Raise Your Hand Texas, an advocacy group for public education in Texas, children who attend any type of preschool program were more likely to be ready for kindergarten (54 percent ready) than children that had not attended preschool (38 percent ready). High-quality pre-K programs can lead to significant and sustained scholastic gains for young children.

A critical component of any successful pre-kindergarten program is parental involvement. Dr. Karen Mapp, a leading Harvard researcher, has devoted a large body of her research to creating and strengthening family, community, and school partnerships in order to increase student achievement. Her research has revealed that family and parental involvement fosters faster rates of literacy acquisition among children, increased rates of students going on to secondary education, increased attendance rates and decreased rates of school dropouts.

Sabinal Independent School District recognizes that parents are a child’s first teacher(s). Parents serve as key collaborators in the social-emotional and academic development of their children. Therefore, the district honors and encourages a strong partnership with students’ parents and families by providing partnership opportunities surrounding the following six core areas:

- Family-to-family support
- Community resource/networking support
- Participation in school decision making
- Providing tools to enhance and extend student learning outside of school
- Supporting school staff with ways to develop their skills in evidenced-based practices that support families in meeting their children’s learning benchmarks; and
- Evaluating the school’s family engagement efforts and using that data to continuously improve

The following provides an overview of the Sabinal Independent School District Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan surrounding the six tenants above.

	SASID will foster parental involvement through categorized activities such as:
1. Facilitate Family-to-Family Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the Teacher Night (prior to school starting)</li> <li>• Open House</li> <li>• Family Literacy Night</li> <li>• Buddy Reading Program</li> <li>• Parent Volunteer Opportunities</li> <li>• Monthly Parent Activity Calendar</li> <li>• Parent/Teacher Conferencing</li> <li>• Parent Teacher Organization</li> <li>• Fall Festival</li> <li>• Holiday Program Preparation</li> <li>• Picnic with the Parents (Fall, Spring)</li> <li>• Career Day</li> <li>• Communication Assistance (translation)</li> </ul>
2. Establish a Network of Community Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas Health and Community Services</li> <li>• Education Service Center Region XX</li> <li>• Back to School Health Fair (MHMR, Uvalde Memorial Hospital, County Clinic, Dr. Kelly (Family Practitioner in Sabinal), Fiesta Dental</li> <li>• Immunization Clinic</li> <li>• Texas Fitness Challenge</li> <li>• Flu Shot Clinics</li> <li>• 5K Healthy Exercise Challenge</li> <li>• K'Star Counseling and Outreach Services</li> <li>• Elementary Career Day</li> <li>• Autism 101 Parent Trainings</li> <li>• Sabinal Public Library Resource Card Assistance</li> <li>• Sabinal Police Department</li> <li>• Texas Suicide Hotline</li> <li>• KSTAR Uvalde County</li> <li>• Uvalde Memorial Hospital Emergency Room</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheriff’s Department</li> <li>• One-on-One Parenting Skills/Classes</li> <li>• Small Group Counseling</li> <li>• Individual Counseling</li> <li>• Abbreviated Family Counseling</li> <li>• Student Guidance Classroom Lessons</li> <li>• Social-Emotional Wellness</li> </ul>
3. Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campus Leadership (Site-Based Decision Making) Team</li> <li>• District Leadership (Site-Based Decision Making) Team</li> <li>• Parent Teacher Organization</li> <li>• Parental surveys</li> <li>• Parental input on Targeted Improvement Plan</li> </ul>
4. Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy and Math Nights</li> <li>• Autism 101 Training</li> <li>• Special Education Professional Development</li> <li>• Dyslexia Professional Development for Parents</li> <li>• STAAR Night</li> <li>• Lending developmentally appropriate technology to families and provide teacher-approved Internet learning websites to practice academic learning</li> <li>• Home practice provided so students do not regress during long breaks from school</li> <li>• School field trips and school-recommended family field trips outside of the school day</li> <li>• Virtual field trips</li> </ul>
5. Develop Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices That Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response to Intervention</li> <li>• Sabinal Independent School District Board Goals</li> <li>• Education Service Center, Region XX Support</li> <li>• Parent Conferencing</li> </ul>

<p>Families in Meeting Their Children's Learning Benchmarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use of Class DoJo school-wide to involve parents in the education of their child(ren) on a daily or weekly basis</li> <li>● Literacy and Math Nights</li> <li>● Teacher-led Make and Take Sessions for Parents</li> <li>● Progress Reports/Report Cards</li> <li>● Universal Screening Results/Individual Student Goal Setting</li> <li>● Professional Ethics Training for Staff</li> <li>● Interaction with Parents</li> <li>● Positive behavioral reinforcement and response to children's behavior</li> <li>● Supporting families in crisis</li> <li>● Providing community resources to support needs</li> <li>● English as a Second Language support</li> <li>● Full time academic dean that provides individualized, small group and/or entire staff embedded professional development and planning support to teachers surrounding core academic areas</li> <li>● Full time school counselor that provides individualized, small group or entire staff social-emotional professional development</li> </ul>
<p>6. Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Use Evaluations for Continuous Improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Surveys such as the Early Childhood Program Self - Assessment and PK Parent Survey</li> <li>● Circle and ISIP Individual Student Assessment results to drive academic family support with student learning</li> <li>● Compilation of evaluation data and use it to plan and implement a more effective Parental Involvement Program</li> <li>● Utilization of sign-in sheets to gauge parent/family participation and attendance at events</li> <li>● Parent/Teacher/Administrator conferences to provide the opportunity to receive feedback from families</li> </ul>

