

Holland ISD's High Quality Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan

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 well-being 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.

The Texas Education Agency has identified six family engagement components that must be supported within a district family engagement plan. This plan identifies ways in which Holland ISD addresses each component.

Component 1: Facilitate Family-to-Family Support

Create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups; invite former program participants, including families and community volunteers, to share their education and career experiences with current families; and ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families such as training on family leadership.

Holland ISD will:

- Invite parents to attend our Meet the Teacher night
- Invite families to attend our Family Night
- Invite families to attend our Fall Carnival
- Invite families to attend our community Thanksgiving meal
- Invite families to attend our Christmas programs
- Invite families to attend our end of the year awards programs
- Encourage parents to participate in our PTO
- Encourage parents to interact on Class DoJo

Component 2: Establish a Network of Community Resources

Build strategic partnerships; leverage community resources; monitor and evaluate policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways; establish and maintain partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies; identify support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers; partner with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings; provide and facilitate referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs; communicate short- and long-term program goals to all stakeholders; and identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language.

Holland ISD will:

- Partner with Baylor Scott & White to provide a community health-based clinic on our campus
- Partner with a local church to provide backpacks of food for families in need
- Partner with a local charity to provide tennis shoes for those in need
- Partner with a local church to provide Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts to those in need
- Partner with STARRY counseling to provide free counseling services

Component 3: Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making

Develop and support a family advisory council; develop, adopt, and implement identified goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement; develop and support leadership skills for family members and provide opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families; collaborate with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers; engage families in shaping program activities and cultivate the expectation that information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication; develop, in collaboration with families, clearly defined goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress; provide each family with an opportunity to review and provide input on program practices, policies, communications, and events in order to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of families; and use appropriate tools such as surveys or focus groups to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan.

Holland ISD will:

- Provide opportunities for parents to participate on the District Site-Based Committee
- Provide opportunities for parents to be involved on the Safety Committee
- Ensure parents participate on the Campus Improvement Plan Committee
- Develop jointly with parents the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy, campus Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and the School-Parent Compact
- Gather feedback from family members utilizing annual surveys
- Ensure parents participate on the School Health Advisory Council
- Encourage parents to participate in the PTO
- Ensure good communication with parents through daily communication sheets, school messenger, Class DoJo, social media, phone calls, and parent/teacher conferences

Component 4: Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning

Design home educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership; provide families with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities; equip families with resources and skills to support their children through the transition to school and offer opportunities for families and children to visit the school in advance of the prekindergarten school year; provide complementary home learning activities for families to engage in at home; provide families with information, best practices, and training related to age-appropriate developmental expectations; emphasize benefits of positive family practices that complement the stages of children's development; collaborate with families to appropriately respond to children's behavior in a nonpunitive, positive, and supportive way; encourage families to reflect on family experiences and practices in helping children; and assist families to implement best practices that will help achieve the goals and objectives identified to meet the needs of the child and family.

Holland ISD will:

- Utilize Ready Rosie to provide early childhood learning opportunities for families
- Offer full-day prekindergarten
- Encourage parents to participate in Pre-K Round Up activities
- Utilize CLI Engage to provide early childhood learning opportunities for families
- Provide monthly calendars that outline what is being taught that month so parents can supplement their child's learning
- Provide parents websites and tools they can use with their children to enhance their learning

Component 5: Develop Soft Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting their Children’s Learning Benchmarks

Provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis; promote and develop family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff; and develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies.

Holland ISD will:

- Provide professional development to all teachers on communicating with families in crisis
- Provide professional development to all prekindergarten teachers relevant to their teaching

Component 6: Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Use Evaluation for Continuous Improvement

Conduct goal-oriented home visits to identify strengths, interests, and needs; develop data-collection systems to monitor family engagement and focus on engagement of families from specific populations to narrow the achievement gap; use data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement; ensure an evaluation plan is an initial component that guides action; use a cyclical process to ensure evaluation results are used for continuous improvement and adjustment; ensure teachers play a role in the family engagement evaluation process.

Holland ISD will:

- Conduct an annual evaluation and review the content and effectiveness of the Title I, Part A program and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- Ensure each campus completes the Comprehensive Needs Assessment to determine their individual needs
- Utilize participation data collected from Ready Rosie
- Keep record of family participation and attendance in school events