

Committee Overview

<p><i>“The mutual responsibility of families, schools and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement, 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 is both culturally and linguistically appropriate.” Texas Administrative Code §102.1003.</i></p>
<p>Uplift believes in the importance of early childhood education and offers Pre-K at most of its schools. Pre-K at Uplift is free but students must qualify based on household income or other situations. Uplift Pre-K students are guaranteed a spot in Kindergarten at the same Uplift school. In accordance with the House Bill 3 High-Quality Prekindergarten guidelines, Uplift Education has created a High-Quality Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan to ensure partnership between our school, families, and communities. Research shows that parent engagement increases student performance.</p>
<p>Family Engagement Plan Development Committee Members: Mimi Hutchison, Ashley Hofmann, Nancy Marrero, Frances Maisonet-Hernandez</p>
<p>Contact Person for Families: Richard Johnson</p>

Family Engagement Plan

Family Engagement Plan Component	Component Description	Activity/Event/Practice Details and Timing
Facilitate Family-to-Family Support	Creating a Strong, supportive community through consistent and clear communication will foster family connections and promote interactions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PK Specific Social Media ● Family Learning Nights ● Parent Workshops ● Classroom Volunteering Opportunities ● Family satisfaction survey ● Weekly/Monthly Caregiver Newsletter ● PK/K Student Learning Showcase ● PK Round-Up ● PK Back to School & Meet the Teacher events
Establish a network of community resources	Establishing a network of community resources for pre-kindergarten families can provide essential support and enhance their overall well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jump Rope for Heart event ● Literacy Night event ● Math Night event ● Career Day event ● Uplift Education Pre-K Vision Handbook ● Support with Necessary Health Clinic Needs ● Food Pantry Connections
Increase family participation in decision making	Throughout the year, participation in district and school-wide decision-making empowers caregivers as their child’s first teacher and advocate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Campus Improvement Plan Committee ● Pre-K and Me Panel ● Pre-K Townhall ● LPAC Committee Parent Group

Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning	Increasing family participation in decision-making processes within a pre-kindergarten setting can significantly enhance engagement and ensure that the needs and perspectives of families are considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ready Rosie ● hatch Ignite ● Family conferences required twice each year ● ESL Classes ● Annual Caregiver Satisfaction Survey ● Weekly/Monthly Caregiver newsletter ● Quarterly PK Curriculum event
Provide ongoing professional development opportunities for educators	Providing ongoing professional development opportunities for educators is essential for maintaining high-quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PK Guidelines ● Technology for young children ● Curriculum Webinars and Asynchronous Trainings ● On-Demand trainings and support ● Weekly trainings in response to data needs ● Monthly coaching and mentoring check-ins ● CTL/Peer leaders ● District-wide strengths-based/culturally Responsive PD ● Certification Support
Evaluate family engagement efforts and use results for continuous improvement	Systematically evaluating family engagement efforts and using the results for continuous improvement is essential for ensuring the effectiveness and relevance of these initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Campus Improvement Plan cycle ● District/Campus Climate Surveys ● Title I Parent Survey ● District Performance Report ● Beginning-of-Year student-centered goal setting and family checkpoint conferences/ sessions

Transition Activities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage with teachers and administrators monthly to share and align best practices for family engagement, setting and communicating learning goals, and student progress monitoring ● Provide school tours/visits with school administrators, campus teachers, family engagement coordinators and community to encourage smooth transitions to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten ● Transition camp for incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten scholars.
Linguistic & Culturally Inclusive Practices:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure Human Resources Dept. routinely implements linguistically and culturally inclusive hiring practices ● Provide ongoing professional development to educators on culturally responsive topics with an early childhood focus ● Use culturally relevant materials in classrooms and sent to families ● Use home languages for all communications sent to families when possible ● Provide translators and interpreters during all events/activities for families
Conclusion:
<p>For our scholars, Pre-Kindergarten is the beginning of the family-school partnership. All aspects of scholars’ development benefit when families are engaged in a positive relationship with the school (Halgunseth, 2009). Likewise, initiating and sustaining trusting partnerships with the families of Uplift Pre-K scholars is of paramount importance.</p> <p>In the Uplift Pre-K school-family partnership, families and educators exchange knowledge and resources. Families share expertise about their scholars and reinforce learning at home, while Uplift shares educational resources with families. Ultimately, a strong family-school partnership benefits the development of the Whole Pre-K Scholar.</p>

