



Gordon ISD

2025-2026 PreKindergarten Family Engagement Policy & Program

What is it?	<p>Texas Administrative Code §102.1003 defines family engagement as “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.”</p> <p>As recipients of the High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant, Texas Education Agency (TEA) requires each school district or an open-enrollment charter school to develop, implement, and make available on the district, charter, or campus website a family engagement plan to assist the district in achieving and maintaining high levels of family involvement and positive family attitudes toward education. An effective 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.</p> <p>TEA has defined six family engagement categories that must be supported within the local family engagement plan. The following pages outline the six family engagement categories and the activities (strategies in action) Gordon ISD implements throughout the school year to support each category.</p>
Facilitate family-to-family Support	<p>Create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups;</p> <p>Invite former program participants, including families and community volunteers, to share their education and career experiences with current families;</p> <p>Ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families such as training on family leadership.</p> <p>Strategies in Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Meet the Teacher<input type="checkbox"/> Campus Festival(s)<input type="checkbox"/> Campus Family Night(s)<input type="checkbox"/> Prekindergarten Round Up Activities<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Teacher Organization (Longhorn Association)<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Opportunities

<p>Establish a network of community resources</p>	<p>Build strategic partnerships;</p> <p>Assisting families in getting and using a library card;</p> <p>Leverage community resources;</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways;</p> <p>Establish and maintain partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies;</p> <p>Identify support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers;</p> <p>Partner with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings;</p> <p>Provide and facilitate referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs;</p> <p>Communicate short- and long-term program goals to all stakeholders;</p> <p>Identify partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language.</p> <p>Strategies in Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy Night(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Scholastic Book Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate activities with the library and distribute information about events/activities held at the local library <input type="checkbox"/> Lions Club-Provide glasses to children in need <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Department of Health-Free shot clinics
<p>Increase family participation in decision making</p>	<p>Develop and support a family advisory council;</p> <p>Develop, adopt, and implement identified goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement;</p> <p>Develop and support leadership skills for family members and providing opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families;</p> <p>Collaborate with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers;</p>

	<p>Engage families in shaping program activities and cultivating the expectation that information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication;</p> <p>Develop, in collaboration with families, clearly defined goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>Use appropriate tools such as surveys or focus groups to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan. The Annual Title I meetings will take place in the Fall and Spring semesters</p> <p>Strategies in Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> District Strategic Planning Committee Survey <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Improvement Plans <input type="checkbox"/> District Parent Satisfaction Survey <input type="checkbox"/> District Social Media Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Weekly Communication
<p>Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning</p>	<p>Design or implementing existing home educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership;</p> <p>Provide families with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities;</p> <p>Equip 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;</p> <p>Provide 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;</p> <p>Provide families with information, best practices, and training related to age-appropriate developmental expectations;</p> <p>Emphasize benefits of positive family practices such as attachment and nurturing that complement the stages of children's development;</p> <p>Collaborate with families to appropriately respond to children's behavior in a non-punitive, positive, and supportive way;</p> <p>Encourage families to reflect on family experiences and practices in helping children;</p>

	<p>Strategies in Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Children’s Learning Institute family activities and student progress monitoring data <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Family Learning Night(s) <input type="checkbox"/> District Family Engagement Night(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Portal Access on Ascender <input type="checkbox"/> Report Cards and Progress Reports <input type="checkbox"/> Meet the Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Parent-Teacher Conferences <input type="checkbox"/> Prekindergarten Round Up Activities <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Parent Communication <input type="checkbox"/> District Automated Messages for District and Campus Events through ParentSquare <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendations of Free Educational Apps and Websites <input type="checkbox"/> Character Education <input type="checkbox"/> College Career Awareness
<p>Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children’s learning benchmarks</p>	<p>Provide essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis;</p> <p>Promote and developing family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff;</p> <p>Develop staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies.</p> <p>Strategies in Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> CIRCLE Assessment Training <input type="checkbox"/> Title 1 Part A Parent Engagement Activities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Ongoing Professional Development □ Counseling and Guidance Support □ Annual compliance trainings as required and as refreshers
Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement	<p>Conduct goal-oriented home visits to identify strengths, interests, and needs; Develop data collection systems to monitor family engagement and focusing on engagement of families from specific populations to narrow the achievement gap;</p> <p>Use data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement;</p> <p>Ensure an evaluation plan is an initial component that guides action;</p> <p>Use a cyclical process to ensure evaluation results are used for continuous improvement and adjustment;</p> <p>Ensure teachers play a role in the family engagement evaluation process.</p> <p>Strategies in Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ District Strategic Planning Committee Survey □ Family Engagement Night Survey □ Program Evaluation Survey for Continuous Improvement □ Use of Commissioner Approved Testing Instruments
	<p>Family engagement is a priority at Gordon ISD and to the overall mission/vision of the district. We encourage families to participate in the opportunities that will be available in the prekindergarten program. The role of respectful and trustworthy collaboration between schools and families leads to positive child outcomes. The district expects for each family and student to be open and honest, act appropriately, strive to grow, hold a growth mindset, and be team-oriented.</p>

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