

# Austin ISD Family & Community Engagement Plan

Strong Partnerships for Student Success

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## Our Vision

At Austin ISD, we believe students thrive when families, schools, and communities work together. Family engagement is not a program—it's a mindset shared across our district that supports every child's learning and growth.

## Our Core Beliefs

- All families want their children to succeed.
- Families are powerful advocates and essential partners in education.
- Every family can support learning with the right tools and support.
- Schools are responsible for building strong, respectful partnerships with families.

## Our Principles

*Rooted in Equity, Inclusion, and Shared Responsibility*

1. **Respect and Trust**  
We build relationships based on trust, respect, and open communication.
2. **Equity and Inclusion**  
Engagement is accessible, culturally responsive, and honors every family's identity.
3. **Family as Experts**  
Families know their children best and bring valuable insight to their education.
4. **Shared Power and Decision-Making**  
Families co-lead and shape the programs, policies, and decisions that affect them.
5. **Collective Responsibility**  
Schools, families, and communities all play a role in student success—together.
6. **Strength-Based Approach**  
We focus on the strengths of families and communities, not their challenges.
7. **Continuous Learning**  
We are committed to learning and improving how we engage and partner.

## Districtwide Goals

1. Advisory Council: Create a diverse council to guide family engagement work.
2. Two-Way Communication: Strengthen ongoing, accessible communication.
3. Family Learning: Offer workshops and tools to support learning at home.
4. Staff Training: Build staff capacity to partner with families using an equity lens.

## **What Every School Will Do**

- ✓ Develop a Family Engagement Plan as part of the Campus Improvement Plan
- ✓ Hold annual family meetings to share plans and invite input
- ✓ Offer flexible meeting times (mornings, evenings, weekends)
- ✓ Provide families with clear info about curriculum, assessments, and progress
- ✓ Support new families, including pre-K, transfers, and special education transitions
- ✓ Create a School-Family Compact to define shared responsibilities
- ✓ Use the Dual Capacity Framework to build meaningful engagement
- ✓ Provide training for staff on family partnerships
- ✓ Share info in families' home languages
- ✓ Allocate funds for childcare, transportation, interpreters
- ✓ Promote involvement in PTA and parent leadership opportunities

## **Commitment to Continuous Improvement**

This plan is reviewed regularly to ensure it reflects our community's needs and voices. Together, we're building trust and stronger partnerships to help all students succeed.