

**KARNACK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
PLAN**

2016-2017



Welcoming All Families ~ Supporting Student Success

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KARNACK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

2016-2017

OVERVIEW

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. TAC §102.1003

It has long been recognized by both researchers and practitioners that family engagement plays a non-negotiable role in education. It is no longer a suggestion, but rather a mandate, in Texas, with the passage of House Bill 4 in 2015. TEC §29.168, created by HB 4, 84th Texas Legislature, 2015, requires a school district or charter school to develop and implement a **Family Engagement Plan** to assist the district in achieving and maintaining high levels of family involvement and positive family attitudes toward education. The local **Family Engagement Plan** must be based on the family engagement strategies established by TEA in collaboration with other state agencies.

According to TEA, the goal of TAC §102.1003, High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program, is to “provide districts with an opportunity to expand or enhance high-quality prekindergarten programs for qualifying students.” This ruling also outlines school district and charter school eligibility for grant funding and qualifications for students eligible to receive instruction under the grant program. The new High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program requires school districts and charter schools to meet the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines (updated 2015).

The proposal also identifies in rule the family engagement strategies that districts and charter schools are required to address in a **Family Engagement Plan** in order to be eligible to receive grant funding under this program. TEA has identified six family engagement strategies which must be incorporated into the local **Family Engagement Plan**.

A district-wide **Family Engagement Plan** is also required by the Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Cycle 8 Grant, which was received by Karnack ISD In January, 2015. Family engagement is an important component of the grant which requires family engagement surveys and employs a Family Engagement Specialist. This plan will also serve to meet the requirements of the Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant / Karnack ACE Program.

KARNACK ISD FAMILY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

1. Facilitate family-to-family support.

- KISD intends to develop parent to parent networks and programs to expand family and parent engagement activities with qualified volunteers.
- Grant resources will be used to expand parent education offerings so that all families will have opportunities to participate and become engaged in their child's education.
- PTO organization on campus offer family-to-family interaction and support revolving around school activities.
- The Family Engagement Specialist, paid with Karnack ACE Program funds, will provide monthly activities for Karnack ACE participants and their parents, encouraging family-to-family support.
- ACE family events will be held in the evenings and family meals provided.

2. Establish a network of family resources.

- Karnack ISD has established multiple family resources through several competitive federal grants including the Texas 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant (ACE Program). This effort is on-going, continually growing the network of family resources. Positive collaboration has been established with:
 - Harrison County Rural Extension
 - Caddo Lake State Park
 - National Wildlife Refuge
 - Master Gardeners of Texas
- Relationships with faith-based organizations such as Karnack United Methodist Church, Church of Uncertain, and Antioch Missionary Baptist Church have been established and churches have actually "adopted" KISD School to support. Students give back to the churches through volunteer hours and support.
- Karnack ISD intends to use funding from the High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program to foster and increase community connections and resources.
- Karnack ISD has a goal of establishing a parent resource center on campus. The parent resource centers will offer parents a comfortable and welcoming place to come for parent meetings, parent education, and educational activities to enhance their child's learning.

3. Increase family participating in decision making.

- Karnack ISD has established a strong foundation of collaboration with parents and community partners. The district offers multiple parent and community involvement opportunities each school year including:
 - Community faith-based partnerships,
 - Family and Community events,
 - Head Start Program
- Parents are provided an opportunity to discuss school issues and provide input through the campus PTO.
- Parents will be represented on campus in the writing of the Campus Improvement Plan.
- KISD will consult with parents and families to jointly develop/revise, agree upon and distribute the District and Campus Parental Involvement Policies.
- Each Title I, Part A campus has a School-Parent Compact that outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students share responsibility for improved student achievement and by what means the school and parents will build and develop a partnership describing how parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The School-Parent Compact will be distributed to all Title I parents and families.
- Title I campuses will host an Annual Title I Parent Meeting providing information regarding federal programs and expenditures, informing parents of their right to be involved, and explaining the reservation of funds for parental involvement and the parents' role in giving input into use of funds.
- Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through surveys and through postings on the district's website.
- Nutritious refreshments/snacks and drinks will be offered at parent meetings for parent convenience and to promote attendance.

4. Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning.

- KISD will continue to offer full day Headstart/Pre-K to eligible students, enhancing and extending socialization and facilitating parent involvement for Headstart/Pre-K parents.
- Parent workshops can be held afterschool and/or during the school day at individual campuses. Topics could include:

- understanding State standards, curriculum as well as assessment,
 - local KISD assessments,
 - how to monitor their child's progress and work with teachers to improve student achievement,
 - behavior management, and
 - parent literacy.
- Program suggestions specific to all students and staff include:
 - Back To School Bar B Q,
 - Parent-teacher conferences,
 - Hispanic Heritage Night,
 - Kindergarten – Second Grade Curriculum Nights,
 - National Parental Involvement Night
 - Veteran's Day Luncheon
 - Annual Christmas Program
 - Parent vs. Students Basketball
 - Head Start Parenting Meetings
 - The grant-funded Family Engagement Specialist is a welcome addition to current district staff and resources and will collaborate with family engagement activities offered through other programs to avoid duplication and for consistency across the district.
 - The ACE Program Family Engagement Specialist will work with campus staff, particularly those familiar with at risk students and families, to gather information about types of parent training and events they believe are most needed at their site to enhance student learning and increase parent involvement.
 - Each campus will publish a school newsletter, available in digital format, to keep parents informed of important information including progress reports, report cards, test results, new programming options, and suggestions for parents to become involved in their child's education.
 - KISD will provide a monthly Karnack ACE newsletter with a calendar of events along with other pertinent parent and family information.
 - Information will be provided to parents in a format and language they understand. All parent communication will be offered in English and Spanish.
 - Parents will be provided frequent reports on student progress. Report cards and school assessment results are sent home by mail each 6 weeks. Progress reports are sent home every 3 weeks.

- Parents will be provided information about the level of achievement of the child in each of the required state academic assessments in the final report card or as soon as practicable.
- Federal Report Cards results will be disseminated to parents, no later than early March. Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR) will be disseminated to parents. These reports will also be posted on the KISD website for public access.
- Formal parent/teacher conferences are scheduled at least once per year. School-parent compacts are discussed during these conferences at Title I campuses. Conferences are available anytime as needed by parents or teachers. An appointment may be made by calling the teacher directly or calling the school office.
- Title I parent involvement activities will be coordinated with parent involvement activities of other programs whenever feasible. Multiple family engagement activities will be offered throughout the school year. These activities will be documented by sign-in and agenda.
- Enrolling students will complete the Home Language Survey.

5. Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement.

- Karnack ISD currently uses parent surveys to gain information on preferences of programs and parents' perception of program effectiveness. Several additional campus-specific surveys are fielded each year depending on campus needs. Valuable information gathered from family surveys is used to improve programs and increase parent outreach and involvement. Examples of surveys include:
 - Title I Parent Survey
 - ACE Program Family Engagement Survey
- KISD will conduct an annual evaluation and review of the content of and effectiveness of the Title I, Part A Parent Involvement Program and Parental Involvement Policy. Parents and families will be involved in this review, aimed at improving the academic quality of Title I, Part A Schools.
- Comprehensive Needs Assessment - Family engagement efforts will be evaluated on a continuous basis at the district and campus levels to determine whether the level of participation has increased and if activities meet the needs of parents. Programs and activities will be constantly monitored, identifying strengths and weaknesses, in order to affect change at the earliest possible date to assure program effectiveness.