
Howard Early Childhood Center

2019 Parent Engagement Plan

Alamo Heights ISD



High Quality Components: Family Engagement

Required Practice: Develop, implement and post on web a Family Engagement Plan with six key components (components determined by expert panel):

1. Facilitate family-to-family support
2. Establish a network of community resources
3. Increase family participation in decision making
4. Equip families with tools to enhance and expand learning at home
5. Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families
6. Evaluate and revise family engagement practices

Facilitate Family-to-Family Support

There are several opportunities for families at Howard Early Childhood Center to meet and collaborate with each other as well as with school faculty members. Some of these opportunities are formal presentations and meetings and other opportunities are less formal and centered around shared experiences.

1. Bilingual Parent Meetings with shared dinners
2. Family Breakfast
3. Pies for Parents
4. Digital Communication: SeeSaw, BLOOMZ, Whatsapp
5. Schoolwide events: Fiesta, AIC, Rodeo
6. Title 1 Family Reading Night
7. Parents as Partners Meetings

Establish a Network of Community Resources

Within our small district, there are several organizations and support groups and activities that support our students and families. A core business of school administration and nursing staff is to match school families with outside resources for the benefit of students. Some of the support resources are listed below.

1. Snack Pack
2. Clothes Closet
3. Project Care
4. Shoes for Kids
5. Head Start Resources
6. TAPP-estry
7. Parents as Partners (Special Education)

Increase Family Participation in Decision Making

There are two traditional venues and committees where parents participate in decision making: PTO and Site-Based. These two committees are very active and fully invested in school decision making. A goal for the Howard Parent plan is to increase the diversity of parent participation on these committees. Additionally, the majority of parents on these committees are kindergarten parents. For the 2019-2020 school year, PK parents will be invited to participate in the school leadership committees. Additionally, all parents are invited to provide feedback during Feedback February school survey administrations.

1. PTO (integrate PK)
2. Head Start Council Committee
3. Site Based (Integrate PK)
4. Feedback February Survey Results

Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Expand Learning at Home

Balancing the importance of family time with the importance of homework, Howard seeks to ensure that all home activities serves as opportunities for parents to serve as learning partners with their children. Some of these home learning opportunities are trainings and others are resources.

1. Head Start Trainings
2. Reading Bags/books
3. Monthly activity calendars
4. Weekly activities- Activities for families to complete to enhance classroom learning.
5. Digital Home/school Connections: SeeSaw, Bloomz,
6. Bookflix: Questions on stories

Develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families

This is an area of needed growth. Most of the professional development to date has been focused on academic strategies and developmentally appropriate practices. Additional training is being planned for the 2019-2020 school year to focus on family engagement. Below is a list of current support training for family engagement.

1. Training from Head Start
2. Training from Special ED
3. SeeSaw Staff and Parent Training

Evaluate and Revise Family Engagement Practices

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, Howard engaged in the TEA Self Assessment Process to identify campus strengths and areas of needed growth. These areas will be included in the Campus Improvement Plan during summer 2019.