

VALERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Prekindergarten Family Engagement Plan

Overview and Purpose

Early Childhood Family Engagement 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 wellbeing 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. Texas Administrative Code §102.1003

The importance of family engagement in the context of education is a topic that experts and practitioners agree upon. Family engagement has taken-on a non-negotiable role in the world of education. However, it is important to note that family engagement is no longer just a suggestion, but rather a mandate, in Texas, with the passage of HB 4 in 2015. Texas Education Code §29.168, created by HB 4, 84th Texas Legislature, 2015, which requires a school district 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 follows the family engagement strategies established by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in collaboration with other state agencies.

According to TEA, the goal of Texas Education Code §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. The High-Quality Prekindergarten Grant program outlines family engagement strategies that districts must implement in their 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 and implemented into the local Family Engagement Plan.

Valere Public Schools' Pre-kindergarten program will implement the following family engagement plan in conjunction with the Title I family engagement plan in accordance with the Texas Education Code 102.1003(f) to assist the district in achieving and maintaining high levels of family involvement and positive family attitudes toward education.

Promesa's Early Childhood family engagement plan includes the following six components as outlined in House Bill 4 High Quality prekindergarten grant established under Subsection (b). The district will work in collaboration with Region 13, to ensure alignment between the district's early childhood program.

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 extend learning
5. Develop staff skills to help families meet learning benchmark
6. Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement

Facilitate family-to-family support

Valere Public Schools will maintain open lines of communication through mobile device applications to effectively communicate with our stakeholders in Spanish and English

Valere Public Schools will provide printed communication (flyers, policies and notices and in English and Spanish.

Translators will be available for effective oral communication with stakeholders

Valere Public Schools will provide learning activities and educational resources for families to engage in at home to support learning while strengthening the family/school partnership and promote the value of education.

Valere Public Schools will work together with families to help children overcome behavioral challenges.

Establish a network of community resources

Valere Public Schools will build strategic partners with faith-based and other community organizations.

Valere Public Schools will partner with other organizations to offer afterschool care.

Summer learning resources will be provided to Prekindergarten parents to help lessen learning loss.

Increase family participation in decision making

Surveys and other feedback will be utilized to better meet the needs of our parents and students.

Valere Public Schools will promote family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning.

Equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning

Prekindergarten parents will be provided access to materials and/or online sites to promote and support home learning and practice.

Family will be provided with 'At Home' activities to connect school to home learning.

Valere Public Schools will offer at home materials and resources for literacy and math practice during the summer.

Develop staff skills to help families meet learning benchmark

Valere Public Schools will include training topics on diversity, varying needs of families and being culturally responsive.

The belief that family engagement is a core strategy to improve teaching and learning will be instilled.

Teachers will be adept in the use of *Ready Set Kinder* for progress monitoring.

Evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement

Promesa will invite family feedback through surveys and messaging.

Results from feedback data will be used to inform, and guide decisions to adjust and ensure continuous improvement.