

# DUMAS ISD FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

## For High Quality Pre-Kindergarten

The Dumas ISD Family Engagement Plan supports the district's position that a child's family is an essential part of the child's physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development. The importance of the family's role in preparing a child for school and then supporting them throughout the early years of school and beyond has been well-supported by research. At Dumas ISD, we recognize and value a strong and healthy relationship with each Pre-K student's family. This emphasis on family engagement is communicated in our district vision and mission statements: [insert statements here]. As a child's first and best teachers, family members are encouraged to become involved with their child's Pre-K experience by [insert various expectations here]. Likewise, the school commits to involving families in their child's education by [insert strategies here]. These strategies are outlined in the district's Family Engagement Plan. The Dumas ISD Family Engagement Plan has been developed to foster an impactful partnership between the school, the families of our students, and our community. It is developed in accordance with Rider 78 and Commissioner's Rule 102.1003(f) and describes how we will work together to maximize the potential and the achievement of every Pre-K student.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Dumas ISD Family Engagement Plan is based on the following Guiding Principles for Quality Family Engagement (TEA, 2018):

1. Fostering Reciprocal Relationships

The families of Dumas ISD's Pre-K students are a valued source of information about their child's development and learning needs. As such, Dumas ISD strives to establish a relationship with parents that is based on trust, respect, and two-way communication.

2. Orientation Toward Positive Child Outcomes

All of the activities and strategies included in the Dumas ISD Family Engagement Plan are developed to promote positive educational outcomes for the child and will help to communicate the expectations for students in Dumas ISD's High Quality Pre-K Program. All family engagement policies and practices will consider the information that families, teachers, and student achievement data contribute to the overall picture of the child's needs.

3. Connecting to Family, Community, and School Needs

Dumas ISD's Family Engagement Plan considers the needs of the child's family, the community, and the school. Multiple sources of information are used to identify the practices and policies needed to meet the collective needs of all stakeholders in the district's Pre-K program.

4. Planning with Family Input and Involvement

Part of Dumas ISD's endeavor to effectively involve the families of Pre-K students is to assist families in developing their own ability and confidence to become and remain involved with their child's education. We believe that the best approach for ensuring that the district's efforts to involve families in a meaningful way requires practices that include families in the ongoing improvement of family engagement efforts.

5. Being Culturally and Linguistically Responsive

Dumas ISD values the culture and language of its Pre-K students and their families. We believe that a diverse and inclusive atmosphere will result from family engagement efforts that capitalize on the rich cultural contributions of our student and their families to the educational process. Our family engagement efforts will be focused on cultural

and linguistic responsiveness so that all families – regardless of language or culture – will feel like welcomed, valued, and competent partners in their children’s education.

## **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS**

The Dumas ISD Family Engagement Plan contains six components that ensure that family engagement is completely integrated into the child’s pre-kindergarten experience. The components also develop families, the community, and the school as mutual partners in early childhood education, while also recognizing and honoring the individuality and uniqueness of families. The six components are:

### **Facilitating Family-to-Family Support**

*Dumas ISD will create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other by:*

- Parent meetings will be conducted to encourage parent to parent communication as well as parent to teacher communication.
- Opportunities for parents to network with each other will also be provided throughout the school year.

### **Establishing a Network of Community Resources**

*Dumas ISD will build strategic partnerships and leverage community resources that support families by giving parents the resources that need to provide for their children. The following resources are available in the community:*

- ECI (Early Childhood Intervention) [esc16.net/page/ECI.Services](http://esc16.net/page/ECI.Services)
- Moore County Chamber of Commerce 806-935-2123
- Moore County Hospital District 806-935-7171
- ESL Providers in the Community

### **Increasing Family Participation in Decision-Making**

*Dumas ISD will invest in the capacity of families to engage in program decision-making and self-advocacy by:*

- Community and Faith Based Partnerships
- Convenient Library Hours
- Family Literacy Events
- Early Head Start Program Housed in Dumas ISD

### **Equipping Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning**

*Dumas ISD will provide the support and resources families need to create and extend a learning environment at home by:*

- Creating activities that can be used at home (flash cards, links to educational websites)
- Send home resources on how to better help children at home

## Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting Their Children’s Learning Benchmarks

*Dumas ISD will provide professional development for staff in effective communication and culturally responsive family engagement by:*

- Staff development will be provided for three hours per six week period to insure teachers are provided with effective communication activities and culturally appropriate activities for the prekindergarten child.

## Evaluating Family Engagement Efforts and Using Evaluations for Continuous Improvement

*Dumas ISD will ensure ongoing improvement of family engagement by collecting, analyzing, and aligning data to family engagement policies and activities. This will be accomplished by:*

- Home Visits
- Progress on the Circle Progress Monitor

## CONCLUSION

Dumas ISD believes that family engagement in High Quality Pre-Kindergarten classrooms is the responsibility of schools, families and communities. The district’s Family Engagement Plan strives to facilitate positive student outcomes for our preschool learners, while fostering family well-being and the ongoing development of children, their families and their teachers. The Plan will only work if all partners work together. Dumas ISD is committed to the success of every Pre-K student and their families. As an invaluable part of everything we strive to accomplish for Pre-K students, we encourage families to take every opportunity to participate in family engagement activities, and to do their part in developing healthy, respectful, and trusting relationships with the district. Working together, there is no limit to the success Dumas ISD’s Pre-K students can experience!

## Resources

Texas Education Agency, 2018. *High-Quality Prekindergarten Components: Writing a Family*

*Engagement Plan*

Texas Education Agency, 2018. *High-Quality Prekindergarten Programs: Family Engagement Plan –*

*Strategies in Action*

