

ROMA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PRE-KINDERGARTEN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Background

In April 2016, the Roma Independent School Districts Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Grant Team took the initiative in developing a first draft of a system wide plan for Pre-Kinder family involvement. The core team was made up of 6 Pre-Kinder staff members who had participated in a district family engagement training workshop throughout the spring.

Using input from this training, the core team created and finalized the plan. The proposed plan was then disseminated to school principals at the Fall 2016 Administrative Meeting. In addition, the proposed plan will be shared with other school system stake-holders as well as posted on the school system's web site. The Roma ISD Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan is considered a living document and will be annually reviewed and updated as needed. Updated versions of the plan will be presented to the Pre-Kindergarten Grant Committee and DEIC for input and will be posted on the Roma ISD web site.

Purpose

The Roma ISD Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan was developed to:

- Encourage collaboration of mutual partners, embrace the individuality and uniqueness of families, and promote a culture of learning that is child centered, age appropriate and family driven.
- Create a common vision of family engagement and the resources needed to sustain that vision.
- Improve the parental involvement program through partnership between home, school, and community.
- Increase and improve the level of family involvement in our students' education.

Plan

Component 1: Roma ISD promotes a culture of learning that is child-centered and family driven.

Indicators:

- Parents will be represented on Roma ISD's District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) and will be involved in the development of the parent plan and the evaluation of the plan.
- Roma ISD will develop a parent/school compact as part of its parent involvement plan. This compact will describe how parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.
- Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through surveys and through postings on the system's web page.
- Cultural, economic, language, and demographic issues will be given attention through the selection of focus groups and advisory councils and committees.
- Roma ISD will have Pre-Kindergarten parent representation on the site based decision making committees at each Roma ISD campus.
- Roma ISD has several ways of communicating with parents and engaging them in two-way communication (for example, giving time at Board meetings, holding open forums, site base input, conferences, grade level meetings and providing ways to give input on the district web site).
- Actively recruit parents to become involved in their child's education.

Component 2: The Roma ISD Pre-Kindergarten Plan includes establishing a network of community resources.

Indicators:

Collaborating with the community (activities/events that foster school-community partnerships).

- Parents will be notified of the Roma ISD Pre-Kindergarten Parent Involvement Plan in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand.
- Roma ISD campuses have convened an annual parent meeting to inform parents about the school's parent involvement programs and right of parents to be involved.
- Assistance is provided to parents in better understanding state standards (content as well as achievement), local assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with teachers to improve student achievement.
- School newsletters are sent home on a regular basis and contain information regarding school programs including report cards, test results, new programming options, and suggestions for parents to become involved in their child's education.
- The district report card and other key sources of information regarding academic assessment and expected student proficiency levels are linked to the district web site and to each school's web site. Report cards and school assessment results are sent home each midterm and 6 week term at Roma ISD. Formal conferences are scheduled twice a year according to policy and anytime as needed by parents and teachers.
- Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement plan parent involvement activities will be coordinated with parent involvement activities of other programs such as: Migrant Council, non-district preschool programs, and ESL programs.

Component 3: The Roma ISD Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan increases family participation in decision-making strategies.

Indicators:

- Roma ISD will develop a Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan annually that is developed jointly with parents, agreed on with parents, distributed to parents, and submitted as an annual update of the plan to the district office.
- Roma ISD will set a goal for family engagement for each major strategy at each elementary Title I school.
- Roma ISD campuses will submit their plans to the central office for review and evaluation.
 - A variety of planned, goal oriented programs will be organized and implemented to engage all parents in their children's education in one or more of the following categories:

a. *Parenting Skills* (strategies to promote effective parenting practices at home)

- Parent workshops through district, local, and regional consultants emphasizing topics on:

- Title I
- Pre-Kinder Grant
- Bilingual Education
- STAAR
- ESSA
- PBMAS
- School Policies
- Parent Make & Takes
- Empowering parents
- Parenting Skills/Management
- ESL/Literacy classes
- Nutrition
- Mental/Physical Health
- Financial Advisor

b. *communicating* (strategies to promote positive school-home communication)

- Daily folders and student trackers
- Weekly Folders
- School Messenger system
- School website
- District website
- Monthly campus newsletter
- Room Parent Leaders
- Billboards
- Invitations

c. *volunteering/involvement* (opportunities for parents to volunteer or be an audience at school)

- Classroom Volunteers
- Back to School Bash
- Open House
- Meet the Parents Night
- Grandparents Day
- Holiday Celebrations/Programs
- Title I Parent Conference
- Awards Assemblies
- Carnivals/Jamaicas
- Informational Meetings
- Home Projects
- Parent Career
- Educational Field Trips
- Book Fairs
- Read Across America

d. *decision making* (opportunities to engage in decision making, governance, and advocacy roles at both the school and system level)

- Parent Surveys
- Parent Conferences
- Site Based Team representation
 - Development
 - Review
 - Evaluation
- School Parent Compacts
- Recognition of parents at school board meetings

- Designate a campus based parental involvement liaison to coordinate parental involvement efforts with emphasis on actively recruiting parents to become involved in their child's education.

Component 4: The Roma ISD Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan will equip families to enhance and extend their child's learning through the use of different strategies.

Indicators:

- Materials and training are provided to help Pre-Kindergarten parents work with their children to improve their literacy skills, math skills, social emotional learning, and developmental skills.
- Provide Pre-Kindergarten parents with training to help families transition to school and provide opportunities to visit school.
- Extend the Learning at Home (Make and take parent sessions: Provide complementary home learning activities to families through newsletters, at parent-teacher work sessions, and at other school related events.
- Roma ISD will offer a flexible number of meetings (mornings, afternoons, and evenings). Open House and Orientations are set for both mornings, evenings and afternoons on student half days, meetings and conferences are accommodated to meet parent needs or work schedules.
- Reasonable support for parent involvement activities will be provided per parent request (i.e. transportation, interpreter, etc.)
- To the extent practicable, opportunities will be provided for full participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.
- Sign-in sheets and other forms of documentation will be kept on file and reviewed annually to assess parent participation in system and school activities in each of the areas.

- Parents will be provided opportunities for regular meetings relating to the education of their children and as appropriate participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
- Roma ISD's extensive after school tutoring and homework programs will be provided to improve student homework and achievement.
- Parents will be contacted to confirm student absences and to encourage better student attendance; a letter will be sent home once a student has accrued five unexcused absences; and each school shall develop attendance incentives.
- Roma ISD has a rewards program to acknowledge good character and good student behavior (i.e., Character Counts, Principal's Award, and Student Honor Roll Assemblies at the end of each semester). Parents are invited and encouraged to participate in these events.

Component 5: The Roma ISD Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan will develop staff skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks.

Indicators:

- Professional development in the area of family engagement will be provided to all Roma ISD Pre-Kindergarten staff members.
- The Roma ISD staff will be educated in the value and contributions of parents, in working with parents, and in building ties between parents and schools. Instill the belief in educators/staff that family engagement is a core strategy to improve teaching and learning.
- Provide staff development and encourage staff to respond to family members in a timely, respectful, and culturally appropriate manner
- All elementary campuses will be supported by the district office in planning/implementing family engagement activities for the purpose of improving student achievement.

Component 6: The Roma Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan establishes and articulates expectations.

Indicators:

- Roma ISD will update the written Parental Involvement Policy annually that is developed jointly and agreed upon and distribute to parents.
- Each campus convenes an annual meeting to notify parents of their schools participation in the Pre-Kindergarten Program.
- Every Pre-Kindergarten parent will receive progress report on the level of achievement each of the academic areas (literacy, math, etc.) through the Circle Progress Monitoring System. Such information will be disseminated at the BOY, MOY, and EOY.
- Roma ISD provides communications about the Pre-Kindergarten Grant in a format and to the extent practicable in a language that parents can understand.

Component 7: The Roma ISD Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan will evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement.

Indicators:

- Roma ISD will conduct an annual parent survey regarding the family practices provided at each school site and submit the survey results to the district office.
- Annual surveys will be analyzed to identify barriers to greater participation; to design more effective strategies, and to revise, if necessary, the Pre-Kinder parental family engagement plan.
- Measurable goals for increasing the level and quality of family involvement are required as part of every elementary Title I school improvement plan.

Component 8: The Roma ISD Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan encourages families and school staff to work together with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation. (Note: this component supports TPIS Standard 6: collaborating with community.)

Indicators:

- Parent involvement strategies are coordinated with parent involvement strategies of other programs, such as Texas Migrant Council, Teachers Mentoring Communities Program, and Title III.
- Roma ISD's Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan is made available to the local community and updated to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.