

McAllen Independent School District Family Engagement Plan Pre K – 12th grade

In March 2016, the McAllen Independent School District Family Engagement Core Team took the initiative in developing a first draft of a system wide plan for family involvement. The core team was made of staff members and an initial framework based upon the requirements of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the plan was presented to groups of principals, teachers, and parents, for feedback and revision. On March 3, 2016, a draft of the Family Engagement Plan was evaluated by the McAllen ISD Parent Advisory Council. Using input from this evaluation, the core team finalized the plan. The plan was then disseminated to school principals on April 6, 2016 at the Instructional Leadership Meeting. In addition, the plan will be shared with other school system stake-holders as well as posted on the school system's web site.

The McAllen ISD Family Involvement 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 Parent University Leaders, Superintendent's Parent Advisory, and campus organizations (i.e. PTA, PTO) for input and will be posted on the system's web site.

Purpose

The McAllen Independent School District Family Engagement Plan was developed to:

- Support Goal Five of the McAllen ISD's Strategic Plan
- Support the learning of the High Quality Prekindergarten Grant Program
- Create a common vision of family engagement and the resources needed to sustain that vision
- Increase and improve the level of family involvement in our students' education.
- Comply with Texas State Law TAC §102.1003(f)

Component 1: McAllen ISD is committed to involving families in policy development.

Indicators:

1. Parents will have an opportunity to discuss and provide input various district and campus parent groups (i.e. PTA and PTO Councils, AdHOC).
2. Parents will be represented on McAllen ISD's campus site-based councils (including all Title I Schools) and will be involved in the development of the parent plan.
3. Parents will be represented on the McAllen ISD Planning Process (MPP) core team
4. McAllen ISD will continue to 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.
5. Parents and educators will have the opportunity to provide input through surveys, through postings on the system's web page and campus and district meetings.

6. Cultural, economic, language, and demographic issues will be given attention through the selection of focus groups and advisory councils and committees
7. The school will provide parents of English Language Learners the opportunity to provide input an annual community meeting

Component 2: The McAllen ISD Family Engagement Plan includes technical assistance and plan support for effective family engagement.

Indicators:

1. Parents will be notified of the McAllen ISD Parent Involvement Plan in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand.
2. McAllen ISD has convened an annual parent meeting to inform parents about the school's parent involvement programs and right of parents to be involved.
3. Workshops for parents will continue to be scheduled.
4. 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.
5. The Title I Parent Involvement Program will continue to provide information regarding federal and state programs and expenditures and to collect feedback from parents
6. School newsletters are to be 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.
7. 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 every six weeks at McAllen ISD. Formal conferences are scheduled twice a year according to policy and anytime as needed by parents and teachers.
8. A computer with access to the internet and email will be made available to parents in designated Title I Parent Resource Centers.
9. 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.
10. Title I parent involvement activities will be coordinated with parent involvement activities of other programs such as: Even Start, preschool, and ESL programs.

Component 3: The McAllen ISD Family Engagement Plan supports clearly articulated goals for extent and type of family engagement

Indicators:

1. 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* (strategies to promote effective parenting practices at home)

- Parent workshops through Parent Resource Centers, and school site opportunities such as

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

- Daily folders and student trackers, grade level weekly folders, PTA newsletters, School Phone Messenger System, and school web site

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

- Individual class volunteers, PTA volunteers, Field Day, Book Fair, Fall Festival, Family Night, and After School Program Volunteers

d. *learning at home* (learning activities to involve parents with students at home)

- Daily Reading Buddy Bags in Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten, Homework Helpers, student trackers and student Planners, Resource Central Sessions, and McAllen ISD's monthly Title I parent event sessions

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

- Parent surveys, Site Base team representation, PTA Board, Parent e-mails, Parent Open House dialogue, parent conferences

f. *collaborating with the community* (activities/events that foster school-community partnerships)

- Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army, Mujeres Unidas, Nuestra Clinica Del Valle.

2. McAllen ISD's school will offer a flexible number of meetings (mornings as well as evenings.) Open House and Orientations are set for both mornings, evenings and afternoons on student half days, Conferences are held to meet parent needs or work schedules. Morning and Evening parenting workshops have been held.

3. Reasonable support for parent involvement activities will be provided per parent request (i.e. transportation, interpreter, etc.)

4. 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.

5. 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.

Component 4: The McAllen ISD Family Engagement Plan provides for an evaluation process to promote continuous improvement of the engagement of all families.

Indicators:

1. Annual surveys will be conducted to identify barriers to greater participation; to design more effective strategies, and to revise, if necessary, the parent involvement plan
2. Survey results will be analyzed to measure the effectiveness of the plan and to secure input regarding modifications in future practices
3. Measurable goals for increasing the level and quality of family involvement are required as part of every school improvement plan

Component 5. The McAllen ISD Family Engagement Plan requires family engagement.

Indicators:

1. McAllen ISD will develop a 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.
2. McAllen 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.
3. McAllen ISD will set a goal for family engagement for each major strategy.
4. Schools will submit their plans to the central office for review and evaluation.

Component 6: The McAllen ISD's Family Engagement Plan includes procedures for parents to access and understand course of study or curricular materials as well as Federal, State, and local standards

Indicators:

1. The district web site will contain a link to the Texas Education Agency where the state curriculum for each grade level and subject area can be accessed
2. Progress indicators on elementary report cards will be aligned with state standards.
3. The textbook adoption process will provide an opportunity for potential textbooks to be reviewed by parents and the community
4. The current resource known as the "Parent Resource Centers" and will have specific activities and materials set aside for the involvement of families
5. McAllen ISD's Open Library and Summer Reading Program allows for parents to use and give feedback concerning all trade and library books.

Component 7: The McAllen ISD Family Engagement Plan encourages the support of district involvement in positive parenting skills.

Indicators:

1. Parenting workshops will be offered through McAllen ISD Parent Resource Center school sites
2. Parenting programs such as "Passport to Success" will be provided on an annual basis
3. "Parent Resource Centers" will provide a variety of parenting materials for review and checkout
4. Materials and training are provided to help parents work with their children to improve their achievement, such as literacy training and using technology to foster parental involvement
5. McAllen ISD's extensive after school tutoring and homework programs will be provided to improve student homework and achievement
6. Parents will receive phone calls to confirm student absences and to encourage better student attendance; a letter will be sent home once a student has accrued five unexcused absences; each school should develop attendance incentives
7. The Pre K grant will provide parent support strategies including but not limited to the preschool home visitor program.
8. McAllen ISD has reward programs to acknowledge good character and good student behavior (i.e., Project Wisdom)

Component 8: The Family Engagement Plan incorporates family involvement in decision making and governance.

Indicators:

1. McAllen ISD's staff members are friendly towards, respectful of, and helpful to all families
2. McAllen ISD campuses will have family representation on the site-based team.
3. McAllen ISD and campuses have several ways of listening to parents and engaging them in two-way communication (i.e., giving time at Board meetings, holding open forums, site base input, PTA board representation, conferences, grade level meetings and providing ways to give input on the district web site)
4. McAllen ISD parent representatives will serve on the districtwide Voluntary Pre-K advisory council, and the Family Resource Center advisory council.
5. Parent representatives will serve on McAllen ISD's and campuses' Improvement Planning Process (SIPP) team. Parents are also represented each time the McAllen ISD Board of Trustees updates its five-year plan.

Component 9: The McAllen ISD’s Family Engagement Plan supports professional development to build the capacity for family engagement.

Indicators:

1. Professional development in the area of family engagement will be provided to all McAllen ISD staff members.
2. The McAllen ISD staff will be educated in the value and contributions of parents, in working with parents, and in building ties between parents and schools.
3. McAllen ISD families will have opportunities to be included in family engagement training.
4. McAllen ISD will be supported by the district office in planning/implementing family engagement activities for the purpose of improving student achievement.

Component 10: The Family Engagement Plan specifies budget and funding for family engagement.

Indicators:

1. McAllen ISD will have adequate staff and resources to implement the family involvement standards
2. McAllen ISD’s local funds, Title I and site-based budgets will reflect a commitment to the effective development, implementation, and evaluation of family engagement programs including but not limited to the following:
 - ✓ Districtwide Spanish interpreter
 - ✓ "Parent Resource Center" workshops and materials
 - ✓ District and school level newsletters and other publications
 - ✓ Monthly family engagement opportunities
 - ✓ Staff development aligned with the school improvement plan

"Parent Resource Centers" will serve as a clearinghouse to gather best practices, ideas, materials, new approaches, research, and other program information in order to help schools improve family involvement programs.

3. McAllen ISD will continue to designate at least 1% of the Title 1 A budget for parent involvement activities.
4. McAllen ISD has the State and Federal Programs Office, funded through Title I, to facilitate family engagement activities and to serve a resource to families in linking them to community resources and opportunities.

Component 11: The McAllen ISD’s Family Engagement Plan encourages families and school staff to work together with community members to connect students,

families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Indicators:

1. Partnerships between schools and community organizations will be encouraged including but not limited to: Mujeres Unidas, United Way, Hope Clinic, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance.
2. Parent involvement strategies are coordinated with parent involvement strategies of other programs, such as Title I, Migrant Program and Title III.
3. McAllen ISD's parent involvement plan is made available to the local community and updated to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.