



# *Shallowater Pre Kindergarten Family Compact and Engagement Policy 2018-2019*

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Shallowater ISD commits to the mutual responsibility of families, schools, and communities to build relationships to support student learning and achievement and to support family well-being 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.

## **Shallowater Elementary will facilitate family to family support.**

Shallowater PK program will create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other as individuals and in groups; invite former program participants, including families and community volunteers, to share their education and career experiences with current families; and ensure opportunities for continuous participation in events designed for families by families such as training on family leadership.

## **Shallowater Elementary will establish a network of community resources.**

Strategies used may include: building strategic partnerships; leveraging community resources; monitoring and evaluating policies and practices to stimulate innovation and create learning pathways; establishing and maintaining partnerships with businesses, faith-based organizations, and community agencies; identifying support from various agencies, including mental and physical health providers; partnering with local community-based organizations to create a family-friendly transition plan for students arriving from early childhood settings; providing and facilitating referrals to family support or educational groups based on family interests and needs; communicating short- and long-term program goals to all stakeholders; and identifying partners to provide translators and culturally relevant resources reflective of home language.

## **Shallowater Elementary will increase family participation in decision making.**

Shallowater families will be included when developing and supporting a family advisory council; developing, adopting, and implementing identified goals within the annual campus/school improvement plan targeting family engagement; developing and supporting leadership skills for family members and providing opportunities for families to advocate for their children/families; collaborating with families to develop strategies to solve problems and serve as problem solvers; engaging families in shaping program activities and cultivating the expectation that information must flow in both directions to reflect two-way communication; developing, in collaboration with families, clearly defined goals, outcomes, timelines, and strategies for assessing progress; providing each family with an opportunity to review and provide input on program practices, policies, communications, and events in order to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of families; and using appropriate tools such as surveys or focus groups to gather family feedback on the family engagement plan.

## **Shallowater Elementary will equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning.**

Families will be supported through designing or implementing existing home educational resources to support learning at home while strengthening the family/school partnership; providing families with information and/or training on creating a home learning environment connected to formal learning opportunities; equipping families with resources and skills to support their children through the transition to school and offering opportunities for families and children to visit the school in advance of the prekindergarten school year; providing complementary home learning activities for families to engage in at home with children through information presented in newsletters, online technology, social media, parent/family-teacher conferences, or other school- or center-related events; providing families with information, best practices, and training related to age-appropriate developmental expectations; emphasizing benefits of positive family practices such as attachment and nurturing that complement the stages of children's development; collaborating with families to appropriately respond to children's behavior in a non-punitive, positive, and supportive way; encouraging families to reflect on family experiences and practices in helping children; and assisting families to implement best practices that will help achieve the goals and objectives identified to meet the needs of the child and family.

## **Shallowater Elementary will develop staff skills in evidence based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks;**

Shallowater Elementary will be providing essential professional development for educators in understanding communication and engagement with families, including training on communicating with families in crisis; promoting and developing family engagement as a core strategy to improve teaching and learning among all educators and staff; and developing staff skills to support and use culturally diverse, culturally relevant, and culturally responsive family engagement strategies.

## **Shallowater Elementary will evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement.**

Shallowater Elementary will be conducting goal-oriented home visits to identify strengths, interests, and needs; developing data collection systems to monitor family engagement and focusing on engagement of families from specific populations to narrow the achievement gap; using data to ensure alignment between family engagement activities and district/school teaching and learning goals and to promote continuous family engagement. ensuring an evaluation plan is an initial component that guides action; using a cyclical process to ensure evaluation results are used for continuous improvement and adjustment; and ensuring teachers play a role in the family engagement evaluation process.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_