



Excellence in Leadership Academy
915 W. Interstate Highway 2
Mission, Texas 78572

HB4 High-Quality Pre-K Grant: Family Engagement Plan

One of the strong components of Excellence in Leadership Academy is family involvement. Research indicates an improved academic success rate when families are directly involved in the education of their children. Excellence in Leadership Academy will include the following strategies and activities that address each component of the family engagement plan:

- a. Facilitate family-to-family support:
 - At the beginning of the year, we will host a get-to-know each other light brunch to share with parents the school's rules & expectations, curriculum, progress monitoring, end-of-year expected outcomes, and to promote activities that will be provided for Parents. Parents will be encouraged to share their strengths and interests with us and each other so that they might participate in school activities that coincide with their interests or talents. We will also encourage the sharing of contact information among parents to keep in communication with each other as a means of support.
- b. establish a network of community resources:
 - Excellence in Leadership Academy provides Parent Training sessions addressing multiple intelligences, identifying your child's temperament, behavior management/discipline, enhancing your child's self-esteem, speech & language development, etc. Community partners have been the Presenters at these trainings, including Psychologists, Professors, and Speech Language Pathologists. Excellence in Leadership Academy has also referred Parents to other community agencies such as Texas Department of State Health Services, Mujeres Unidas, Casa Esperanza, and other Counseling centers. Excellence in Leadership Academy will develop a list of the most requested community agencies and will place a link on our website for greater access to our families.
- c. increase family participation in decision-making:
 - Excellence in Leadership Academy provides opportunities to interested Parents to participate in a parent advisory committee where the District Improvement Plan is shared with them, what we have accomplished and initiatives for the following year. Through participation in this committee, parents will be able to provide ideas, suggestions, and feedback for educational decisions impacting the student body. We also have Parents participate in our Wellness Policy advisory group. This advisory group makes nutritional and health recommendations for the Family Handbook.
- d. equip families with tools to enhance and extend learning:
 - Excellence in Leadership Academy will provide sharing sessions for Families. Staff will present strategies for Parents on how they can help their child at home with different instructional and educational activities. These will include: make and take sessions, modeling of Read Alouds, learning of rhymes, songs, etc., activities and ideas on how to promote literacy. In order to extend our character education to the home, a flyer is sent home on a monthly basis explaining

the value of the month with the 5 “I Wills...”/”Yo Decido...” for the Parents to practice and remind their child at home. We will also help Parents learn how to access the CIRCLE: CLI engage site where they will find newsletters for Parents and other resources including quality early learning activities that promote school readiness for parents to use at home.

- e. provide ongoing professional development opportunities for educators on culturally responsive, evidence-based strategies that support the education of the child:
 - Excellence in Leadership Academy is a dual language campus where all our students learn both English and Spanish. As part of our professional development offerings to all our staff, we include dual language issues, such as meeting the educational and social-emotional needs of limited English students, English as a second language strategies, and cultural sensitivity. With grant funds, we will contract Region I ESC Specialists who will provide bilingual-bicultural trainings to our staff on culturally responsive, evidence-based strategies that support the education of our students. We also promote respect for both languages: English and Spanish. We observe the Language of the Day throughout the campus: English on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Spanish on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. All communication sent to parents is provided in English and Spanish.

- f. evaluate family engagement efforts and use evaluations for continuous improvement:
 - Excellence in Leadership Academy utilizes Parent Surveys to evaluate its overall school performance. We will continue to provide the Parent Surveys and will utilize them for continuous improvement. Also, the input provided at the Parent Advisory committee and the Wellness Policy meeting will be utilized to assess family engagement efforts and for continuous improvement. We will also initiate having Evaluation Feedback forms at each one of our Parent Training sessions to assess the effectiveness of these activities. We have a procedure in place where students earn \$50. Eagle Bucks at every Parent Training that their Parent attends to encourage Parent participation. We also keep track of the number of Parents that attend every school activity. This is part of how we evaluate family engagement, but now we will utilize data obtained for continuous improvement purposes, also.