



PTAA Charter Network Texas Academies

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) serves as the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), which was last reauthorized in 2002 as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Since its inception, parent and family engagement and consultation have been a part of the law. Each district is required to reserve at least one percent of its Title I funds to carry out parent and family engagement activities. Each year PTAA will conduct outreach to parents and family members through surveys and campus need assessment meetings to implement programs, activities, and procedures to increase their involvement.

We believe the PTAA Team and Family extends beyond its students and faculty. It includes our parents as well. Parent involvement makes a difference, whether volunteering to help with school activities, supporting other PTAA families, or helping fundraise for their child's school. The spirit of this partnership is outlined in PTAA's Student Compact agreement that everyone signs each year with PTAA.

PTAA affirms the critical role parents, families, and our community play as our partners in the education of Every Child we serve.

PTAA Texas Public Schools Family Engagement Plan

PTAA is committed to supporting family engagement in the following ways:

1. Facilitating family-to-family support

- We use our School–Parent compact, which requires signatures from teachers/the school, the parent, and students to ensure students are working to improve academically.
- PTAA has an “open door policy” and will offer flexible meeting times to increase parent involvement in student learning. Meetings will be held at various times of the day and evening to accommodate parents better.
- At several points throughout the year, our new families have access to returning parents to help them learn the ropes of PTAA and build connections.

- Schools hold regular events with the explicit intention of building community among families. These are held at various times, including weekends and Saturdays, and range in scope from team-building community service and parent education on appropriate topics.
- Train parents to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents.
- Parent events focus on building relationships between teachers and families, family learning sessions, and literacy and math nights.
- Ensure that parents with limited English proficiency have the same access as other parents, including information in a language and form they can understand.
- Student and Parent Handbook underscores the importance of and outlines various ways for parents and families to get engaged in their student's school community, including parent involvement groups, breakfast with school administrators, and other opportunities.
- Must post public notice of the educational rights of children and youth in Homeless situations, posters provided by the US Department of Education translated into language represented in the community.
- Families are aware of the educational and related opportunities available to their children under the McKinney Vento Law, including transportation.

2. Establishing a network of family resources

- PTAA Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has a small library of community resources reserved for our parents and families.
- ESL Parent Liaison also keeps several relevant and important community resources at the front office for families to access.
- The district provides state and federal school report cards and Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) data to families and provides assistance at families' request to interpret the data.
- Providing the district website www.ptaschool.org
- Schools use parent resource centers and other community-based organizations to foster parent and family engagement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
- Parent events focus on building relationships between teachers and families, family learning sessions, and literacy and math nights.

3. Increasing family participation in decision making

- Schools have families participate in the Campus Needs Assessment each year.
- Families complete Healthy Schools Review Surveys, and this data is used to set annual priorities.
- Parent volunteers on the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) provide recommendations to the board for improvements to health and wellness, safety, nutrition, and physical education.
- Our Title 1 Annual Meeting informs families of our Title 1 status and ESSA requirements for gathering family feedback. After the presentation, we ask for feedback via round table discussions and surveys.
- Schools hold parent nights at the beginning of the year to which parents are invited. Parents are informed about how to be involved in their child's education.
- Each school has a PTO to assist PTO school faculty as they go above and beyond to help all students. This assistance includes volunteer coordination, fundraising, community advocacy, faculty appreciation, and the organization of family-oriented activities.
- Educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent involvement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents.
- Athletic Parent Opportunities All sports throughout the year.

4. Equipping families with tools to enhance and extend learning

- Teachers regularly communicate with families/parents about their child's successes and/or problems through reports, notes, letters, phone calls, texts, and e-mails.
- Several of our online learning programs have at-home learning portals with access for families.
- Students consistently have homework that is designed to be completed with family members.
- Students and families always have access to teachers' phone numbers to call or text if they need additional support.
- School family nights often address strategies parents can utilize to support their children's learning at home.
- Parents are trained in Political Advocacy to advocate for education.

5. Providing professional development opportunities for educators on culturally responsive, evidence-based strategies that support the child's education.

- Our district's Student Support Services has a resource bank of materials for culturally responsive teaching that teachers and school leaders use to ensure curricula are increasingly culturally relevant.
- Many schools have community circles as a practice for staff that addresses topics of culture, race, and social justice.

6. Evaluating family engagement efforts and using evaluation for continuous improvement

- The PTAA culture survey is used to identify areas for engagement improvement each year.
- Parents have opportunities at family engagement events and activities to provide ongoing feedback regarding barriers to participation.