

WILLOW VISTA EARLY CHILDHOOD ACADEMY

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

For High Quality Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

The Willow Vista ECA Family Engagement Plan supports the district's position that a child's family is an essential part of the child's physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development. The importance of the family's role in preparing a child for school and then supporting the child throughout the early years of school and beyond has been well-supported by research. We recognize and value a strong and healthy relationship with each Pre-K student's family. The Willow Vista ECA Family Engagement Plan has been developed to foster an impactful partnership between the school, the families of our students, and our community. It is developed in accordance with Rider 78 and Commissioner's Rule 102.1003(f).

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Willow Vista ECA Family Engagement Plan is based on the following Guiding Principles for Quality Family Engagement (TEA, 2018):

1. Fostering Reciprocal Relationships

The families of Willow Vista ECA Pre-K and Kindergarten students are a valued source of information about their child's development and learning needs. As such, Willow Vista ECA strives to establish a relationship with parents that is based on trust, respect, and two-way communication.

2. Orientation Toward Positive Child Outcomes

All of the activities and strategies included in the Willow Vista ECA Family Engagement Plan are developed to promote positive educational outcomes for the child and will help to communicate the expectations for students in Willow Vista ECA's High Quality Pre-K Program. All family engagement policies and practices will consider the information that families, teachers, and student achievement data contribute to the overall picture of the child's needs.

3. Connecting to Family, Community, and School Needs

Willow Vista ECA's Family Engagement Plan considers the needs of the child's family, the community, and the school. Multiple sources of information are used to identify the practices and policies needed to meet the collective needs of all stakeholders in the district's Pre-K and Kindergarten program.

4. Planning with Family Input and Involvement

Part of Willow Vista ECA's endeavor to effectively involve the families of Pre-K students is to assist families in developing their own ability and confidence to become and remain involved with their child's education. We believe that the best approach for ensuring that the district's efforts to involve families in a meaningful way requires practices that include families in the ongoing improvement of family engagement efforts.

5. Being Culturally and Linguistically Responsive

Willow Vista ECA values the culture and language of its Pre-K students and their families. We believe that a diverse and inclusive atmosphere will result from family engagement efforts that capitalize on the rich cultural contributions of our student and their families to the educational process. Our family engagement efforts will be focused on cultural and linguistic responsiveness so that all families – regardless of language or culture – will feel like welcomed, valued, and competent partners in their children's education.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

The Willow Vista ECA's Family Engagement Plan contains six components that ensure that family engagement is completely integrated into the child's pre-kindergarten experience. The components also develop families, the community, and the school as mutual partners in early childhood education, while also recognizing and honoring the individuality and uniqueness of families. The six components are:

Facilitating Family-to-Family Support

Willow Vista ECA will create a safe and respectful environment where families can learn from each other, by:

- Facilitating parent meetings and family engagement activities at least once a month.

Establishing a Network of Community Resources

Willow Vista ECA will build strategic partnerships and leverage community resources that support families, by:

- Providing resource fair annually and utilizing our school counselor to help families find needed resources.

Increasing Family Participation in Decision-Making

Willow Vista ECA will invest in the capacity of families to engage in program decision-making and self-advocacy by:

- Encouraging and inviting family members to be part of our Early Childhood Advisory Council decision making committee.

Equipping Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning

Willow Vista ECA will provide the support and resources families need to create a learning environment at home by:

- Scheduling regular home visits and parent conferences to share way parents can be a teacher at home.
- Regularly providing resources for use at home.

Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting Their Children's Learning Benchmarks

Willow Vista ECA will provide professional development for staff in effective communication and culturally responsive family engagement by:

- All teachers will receive 30 hours of professional development in early childhood best practice across content including coaching provided by an early childhood specialist.

Evaluating Family Engagement Efforts and Using Evaluations for Continuous Improvement

Willow Vista ECA will ensure ongoing improvement of family engagement by collecting, analyzing, and aligning data to family engagement policies and activities. This will be accomplished by:

- Obtaining feedback from parents in parent surveys and parent meetings.
- Early Childhood Advisory committee will use information when reviewing and revising the campus family engagement plan.

CONCLUSION

Willow Vista ECA believes that family engagement in High Quality Pre-Kindergarten classrooms is the responsibility of schools, families and communities. The district's Family Engagement Plan strives to facilitate positive student outcomes for our preschool learners, while fostering family well-being and the ongoing development of children, their families and their teachers.

Resources

Texas Education Agency, 2018. *High-Quality Prekindergarten Components: Writing a Family Engagement Plan*

Texas Education Agency, 2018. *High-Quality Prekindergarten Programs: Family Engagement Plan – Strategies in Action*

Early Childhood Advisory Committee Members

Name	Role (parent, teacher, community member, etc.)
Candice Day	Parent
Andy DeHart	Community Member
Audra Medellin	Teacher
Chante Ochoa	Teacher
Lita Barraza	Counselor
Saul Ruiz	Interventionist
Dana Bolin	Administrator

Timeline for Family Engagement Plan Review/Revision

Willow Vista ECA plans to convene a committee to review and revise, if necessary, the Family Engagement Plan. Dates are tentative and are subject to change.

Date	Time	Location
September 11, 2019	3:30pm	WVECA-Library
October 16, 2019	3:30pm	WVECA-Library
November 1, 2019	3:30pm	WVECA-Library
December 11, 2019	3:30pm	WVECA-Library
January 15, 2020	3:30pm	WVECA-Library
February 5, 2020	3:30pm	WVECA-Library
March 25, 2020	3:30pm	WVECA-Library
April 15, 2020	3:30pm	WVECA-Library