



KIPP Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio join Forces as KIPP Texas Public Schools

KIPP Texas is a network of 52 public charter schools, serving over 27,700 students in PreK-12.

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 always been a piece 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 KIPS will conduct outreach to parents and family members through surveys and campus needs assessment meetings in order to implement programs, activities and procedures to increase their involvement.

We believe that the KIPP Team and Family extends beyond its students and faculty, it includes our parents as well. Be it volunteering to help with school activities, supporting other KIPP families, or to help fundraise for their child school, parent involvement makes a difference. The spirit of this partnership is outlined in KIPP's Commitment to Excellence agreement that everyone signs when starting at KIPP.

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

KIPP Texas Public Schools Family Engagement Plan

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

1. Facilitating family to family support

- Schools performs Home Visits at the beginning of school year to introduce KIPP to families in their home with family members present.
- We use our Commitment to Excellence form as our School – Parent compact, which requires signatures from teachers/the school, the parent, and students to ensure students are working to make academic improvements.
- KIPS have 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 better accommodate parents.
- At several points throughout the year, our new families have access to returning parents to help them learn the ropes of KIPP and build connections.

- Schools hold regular events with an explicit intention to build 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 focusing 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 Family Handbook underscores the importance of and outlines various ways for parents and families to get engaged in their students' school community, including parent involvement group, breakfast with School Leaders, and other opportunities.
- Must post public notice of the educational rights of children and youth in Homeless situation, posters provided by the US Department of Education translated in 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

- KTPS School Support Partners (SSP) have a small library of community resources reserved for our parents and families.
- Many campuses offer Social Work Parent Events where families have access to trainings from community organizations.
- Bilingual Parent Liaison also keep 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 provide assistance at families request to interpret the data.
- Providing the district website www.kiptexas.org
- School use parent resource centers and other community based organizations to foster parents and family engagement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
- Parent events focusing 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 volunteer on the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) provide recommendations to the board for improvements to health and wellness, safety, nutrition, and physical education.
- The student and Family Handbook informs families of our Title 1 status and ESSA requirements related to gathering family feedback. The handbook also states a clear procedure for voicing concerns or disagreements to school operating procedures.
- At the beginning of the year, schools hold parent nights to which parents are invited. Parents are informed about how to be involved in their child's education
- Each school has a KIPP Parent Association (KPA) to assist KIPP 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 communicate with families/parents concerning their child's successes and/or problems on a regular basis through reports, notes, letters, phone calls, texts, 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 that parents can utilize to support their children's learning at home.
- Parents are trained on Political Advocacy to advocate for education.

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

- Our district’s Social Justice Task justice Force has a resource bank of materials for culturally responsive teaching that both teachers and school leaders use to ensure curricula are increasingly culturally relevant.
- Many schools have community circles as a practice for staff that address topics of culture, race and social justice.

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

- The Healthy Schools Review Survey is used to identify areas for improvement of engagement each year.
- Parents have opportunities at family engagement events and activities to provide ongoing feedback regarding barriers to participation.