



SAINT JO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Family Engagement Plan for High Quality Pre-Kindergarten

Saint Jo Independent School District is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. To this end we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step of the way.

A) Facilitates Family to Family Support:

Saint Jo ISD strives to create a safe, respectful and welcoming environment for all families. We value family support and try to foster relationships through use of welcome signs, smiles and greetings from staff, and immediate assistance for all who enter our building. Our goal is to make everyone feel welcome as they enter Saint Jo Elementary.

Parents are invited into the building during all operational hours of our program, and parents are encouraged to participate in the volunteer program to become an active part of our school. Parents are also recruited and regularly invited to participate in the SJ Parent Teacher Organization. This committee meets monthly and plays an active role in participation and guidance of family and school events.

The Campus Committee reviews, provides suggestions, and agrees upon opportunities provided in the school calendar. A *Dates to Remember* page is sent home at the beginning of the school year with important dates for the entire school year documented to provide parents advanced notice of school activities. The *Dates to Remember* page is updated throughout the year and sent home for parents.

Saint Jo Elementary School encourages parents to participate in a variety of program activities to foster confidence and independence in their abilities to plan and deliver appropriate learning experiences for their children. Parents are asked to read nightly with or to their child. Parents are encouraged to help their children with various other activities throughout the year such as decorating pumpkins for our annual Fall Fest, decorating turkeys at Thanksgiving, making 100th Day of School projects at home, and attending class parties and events.

All training and school activities provided are respectful of each culture and language, and allow parents to share personal experiences that may enhance the skills of others. Parents are encouraged to serve on committees to develop leadership skills while working with other parents to achieve common goals. Notice of trainings and school activities are provided on the school website, Facebook page, and/or by notes sent directly home with students in daily folders.

B) Identifies a Network of Community Resources:

A Saint Jo Elementary School brochure is distributed to each enrolled student at the beginning of the school year. The brochure highlights the activities and accomplishments of Saint Jo Elementary in order to provide parents of all students with knowledge of school programs.

Saint Jo Elementary provides a resource guide that is updated annually and lists names, addresses, and phone numbers for service agencies and organizations in the local community.

A Title I parent meeting is provided annually, in September or October, to inform parents of any additional community resources, as well as provide them an opportunity to discuss and share their needs and experiences. The Title I meeting also addresses instructional objectives and methods of instruction for Saint Jo Elementary School.

Saint Jo ISD has established relationships with local and area service providers and organizations in the community. These agencies and organizations offer services and resources necessary to support our students and their families.

The Montague County Special Classes Coop provides services for qualifying students with disabilities beginning at age 3. These service providers ensure children receive and maintain services during transitions into Pre-Kindergarten and on to Kindergarten. The agreements are reviewed and signed annually by parents, service providers, and administrators.

Saint Jo Elementary hosted a dental health assembly during February for National Children's Dental Health Month. The assembly was led by the dental health team from Nocona Dental. The Bowie Lions club also visited our campus with Spot Vision for all students in grades 3k-5th. MHMR comes to our campus to provide counseling services for qualifying students. Saint Jo Elementary has developed many other partnerships to allow students on our campus to receive health and community services while they are on campus.

C) Encourages Participation in decision making:

SJISD involves parents in program decision making to support all areas of their child's development. Parents are encouraged to serve on a variety of committees, such as Student Health Advisory Committee, Parent Teacher Organization and the Campus Committee. Committee members are asked to participate in the program's self-assessment, help develop the annual program improvement plan, and provide input to school programs and policies. To sustain engagement, former parents are asked to continue to serve as volunteers, as well as committee and policy council members.

Parents are also encouraged to become volunteers in many capacities throughout the school program. Saint Jo Elementary encourages all parents to join and attend the monthly meetings of our Parent Teacher Organization. The PTO plans and organizes many campus events throughout the school year. Some of the campus events that parents help with are:

- Meet the Teacher night
- Class parties
- Veterans Day program
- Annual Thanksgiving Feast
- Parent led activities in the classroom
- Attend Field trips

- Volunteer to help coach a Field Day team
- Volunteer to help with the annual 5K run/walk to benefit local charities
- Volunteer to help with Fall Fest
- Muffins with Mom
- Donuts with Dad
- Goodies with Grandparents

Parents are invited to support and participate in the educational goals for their child within the classroom. First six week's parent conferences are set up for every student on the elementary campus. These conferences provide a time for parents and teachers to meet and discuss student progress, goal-setting, decision making, and review other important information related to the academic success of each student.

Ongoing parent/teacher communication occurs as teachers have daily conversations with parents during pick-up and drop-off times, daily home to school communication folders, progress reports, report cards, campus updates and reminders, and social media. The goal of all parent communication is to involve families in the planning and support of individualized goals for their child.

Parent input is also utilized to guide materials and events by using parent feedback, sign in sheets, and surveys. The data gathered assists SJISD staff in planning and implementing training and events which are responsive to family interests and needs.

D) Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning:

The approach to fostering family engagement at Saint Jo Elementary is the belief that families are their child's first and most important teacher. This message is delivered to our families throughout the school year from Meet the Teacher, to parent teacher conferences, and in our overall approach to learning. We want to be educational partners with the families of our students.

Families are welcome and encouraged to meet with teachers at Saint Jo Elementary. Parent conferences provide teachers a time to share assessment results with parents along with an individualized plan to support their child in all areas of learning to ensure School Readiness. The value of reading with their child is discussed, parents are encouraged to read to their children, and are invited to use the Saint Jo School Library to check out books. Free books are given to students as they become available throughout the school year. The Saint Jo School Library hosts a book fair each spring. Students are able to purchase low costs books at the book fair.

Home & School Connection: Working Together for School Success newsletters are sent home throughout the year. The newsletter provides parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parental involvement, and more effective parenting.

The PPCD, 3K, and Pre-Kindergarten classes participate in the CLI Engage assessment at the beginning of the school year, middle of the year, and end of the school year. CLI Engage is a comprehensive professional development and child progress monitoring platform. The system houses professional development, child progress monitoring tools, and classroom observation tools originally developed for use with preschool teachers participating in the Texas School Ready Project (TSR). Parents are provided with a copy of the evaluation data after each assessment in order to be able to work with their child at home.

Saint Jo School shares responsibility with parents for high student performance by developing a parent-student-school compact jointly with parents of children participating in the Title 1 program. The compact outlines how parents, staff and students will share responsibility for promoting high student achievement. Parents on each school's Campus Committee will be involved in designing and/or reviewing the compact. Parents are urged to discuss the compact with their child, before signing it and having their child sign.

Saint Jo Elementary School teachers work collaboratively with each other and with the families of our students to make the transition to the next grade level as easy as possible for the student. Students, along with their families, are encouraged to attend the Meet the Teacher night.

E) Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families:

Saint Jo Elementary teachers and staff are trained annually in effective practices for building relationships with families, as well as recognizing and respecting diversity. The campus implements positive behavior supports. The campus has a morning meeting each day with all of our students. The morning meetings consists of the following activities:

- Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance
- Reciting the Pledge to the Texas Flag
- Observing a Moment of Silence
- Reciting the Saint Jo Elementary Creed
- Discussing the weekly life principle
- Singing Happy Birthday to staff and students observing a birthday
- Special Recognitions and awards
- Daily reminders and announcements

The Saint Jo Elementary 3K and Pre-Kindergarten classes use the Frog Street Press Curriculum. Frog Street Pre-K is a comprehensive, research-based program that integrates instruction across developmental domains and early learning disciplines. The program is engaging for both teachers and children

Saint Jo Elementary staff participate in the following annual trainings as well as 24 hours of specific training each summer for their grade/subject level:

Identification and Confidentiality Training
Bullying: Recognition and Response
CIPA: Compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act
Child Abuse: Identification and Information

F) Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Use Evaluations for Continuous Improvement:

Sign in sheets are available at campus events or attendance is taken by staff in order to document and track parent/community attendance. These participation numbers are used to track attendance from year to year, as well as, for future planning of campus events.

Saint Jo Elementary teachers keep communication logs in order to track and document parent communication throughout the school year. Parent volunteer invitations and parent-teacher communication letters will be kept for documentation.

Saint Jo Elementary uses student planners and/or folders to track student behavior and class work. The folders are signed nightly or weekly to document communication between parents and teachers.

Saint Jo Elementary requires teachers have 24 hours of professional development training each summer. This training includes communication and family engagement strategies.

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions and limitations some services and support may be unavailable until restrictions are lifted for student health and safety.

