

PPSEL Preschool Supplemental Family and Community Engagement Policies

Implemented August 2024

It is the intent of Pikes Peak School of Expeditionary Learning to value the partnership between school and parent. Family and community engagement strengthens the opportunity to learn and provides opportunities to bridge home and school.

Language Resources:

It is the goal of the program to ensure that all families, regardless of language, have equitable access to information and resources, which is crucial for the success of Colorado's UPK program in the preschool setting.

The information below outlines some of the practices that our preschool will follow to ensure that all families, regardless of their primary language, have access to important information, resources, and support in a language they understand. This policy is committed to upholding the principles of equity and inclusion as per the guidelines of Colorado's UPK program.

1. Identification of Language Needs

- Home Language Survey: Upon enrollment, every family will complete a Home Language Survey to identify the primary language spoken at home.
- Ongoing Assessment: The preschool administration will regularly assess the communication needs of families, particularly during parent-teacher conferences, meetings, and other school events.

2. Communication in Preferred Language

- Translation Services: The school will provide written translations of essential documents, including enrollment forms, program information, and newsletters, in the languages identified as needed by the families.
- Interpretation Services: The school will attempt to ensure that interpretation services are available for all meetings, conferences, and other communications between staff and families. This includes providing interpreters for languages not commonly spoken within the community.
- Use of Technology: The preschool may utilize translation tools and apps as aids to support communication in less commonly spoken languages.

3. Culturally Responsive Communication

- Cultural Awareness Training: Staff will undergo regular training on cultural competence and effective communication strategies to engage with families from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

4. Accessible Information Sharing

- Multilingual Materials: The school will attempt to ensure that all essential information, including health and safety notices, educational materials, and event announcements, is available in multiple languages.

5. Family Engagement

- Inclusive Events: School events will be designed to be inclusive and accessible to families who speak different languages, with interpretation services available as needed.

6. Continuous Improvement

- Annual Review: This policy will be reviewed annually to assess its effectiveness and make necessary adjustments based on family needs and feedback.

Seeking and Gathering Input

PPSEL Preschool will seek out input from families regarding their priorities, interests, home routines, and cultural and social practices. This input can be quantitative and/or qualitative and will be used to consider changes to the structure, routines and other aspects of the program.

Engaging Families around Preschool Goals

PPSEL Preschool will engage families around goals which inform the school's interactions and instruction, including multilingual learners. Goals will be created, shared and discussed at parent teacher conferences at least twice a school year. The preschool will also engage families around the decision-making in regards to the school's operations at these times.

Transitions in and out of Preschool

Transition into Preschool

- Welcome Orientation: Families will be invited to attend a welcome orientation called "Meet Your Teacher" before the start of the school year, where they will receive information about the program, daily routines, and what to expect during their child's first days.
- Communication: Families will be provided with clear, ongoing communication about their child's adjustment to preschool, including regular updates from teachers during the initial transition period.

Transition out of Preschool

- Preparation for Next Steps: The preschool will provide opportunities for each family to meet individually with the preschool staff at the end of each school year to discuss progress of student in regards to standards and to discuss the transition out of preschool.
- Celebration of Milestones: The preschool will host two celebrations of learning throughout the year that recognizes the child's achievements and prepares them for the next phase of their education.

Family and Staff Interactions

It is a priority of PPSEL Preschool to foster positive, respectful, and collaborative relationships between families and staff, ensuring open communication and mutual support in the best interests of the student.

Some of the ways that the school accomplishes this is by creating a welcoming environment, parents being welcomed into the classroom on multiple occasions, and the school giving regular updates about students with the families given the opportunity to give feedback.

Annual Survey

It is the intent of PPSEL Preschool to notify all participating families of the opportunity to participate in an annual survey of the experiences with meaningful and culturally appropriate involvement in the program to be conducted by the Department of Education.