

Pathfinder Kindergarten Center  
Title Schoolwide Plan  
**Family Involvement Policy**

**It's a fact ... the more involved parents are in their child's learning the more likely it is that the child will succeed in school ... and in life! In accordance with Title I regulations, Pathfinder staff and parents have worked together to develop a parent and family involvement policy that supports meaningful parent and guardian involvement in the education of their children.**

We believe that parents and families are critical partners with the school in providing quality education for children. As a result, we promote a team approach that includes parents and community, and a high degree of meaningful collaboration around student learning.

Goals of our family outreach program include:

- Increasing parent involvement and participation at school.
- Providing resources for parents and families to support student learning.
- Increasing home/school communication.
- Helping parents to be a resource/support for each other.

Some of the most important things parents can do to help their children experience success in school include:

- Read to or with your child daily.
- Limit screen time
- Create a safe environment where your child is loved, praised and trusted.
- Practice good communication with your child.
- Get to know your child's teacher and what is being taught.
- Find a way to help at school.
- Be sure your child is healthy, rested and in school on a regular basis.
- Believe in your child's potential.

**Communication:** Primary methods of communication with families include: Monthly school and classroom newsletters; *BlackBoard Engage* messages; email; digital tools such as *Class Dojo* and *BLOOMZ* or *Seesaw*; phone calls; in-person formal and informal meetings; and the school website.

More on Bloomz: Pathfinder's primary electronic communication tool is BLOOMZ. Conferences in September and November are scheduled by using the Bloomz app. Parents who require interpreters will be called by office staff to schedule conferences at times that both the classroom teacher and interpreter for the needed language are available. The Bloomz app is also used to track and reinforce behavior and to communicate with parents and guardians about school and classroom activities and events.

**Conferences:** Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice during the year. *Family Connections* conferences are scheduled on the first three days of school in order to facilitate strong relationships between teachers and parents/guardians and to promote a positive transition to school. A second round of conferences are held in November in order to discuss student growth, strengths and areas for focus. Additional conferences may be scheduled at parent/guardian or teacher request.

**Events:** Events to encourage parent and family involvement will include: *Kindergarten Preview; Kindergarten Orientation and Welcome to School Event*; a curriculum information evening; family literacy night (*Books Before Bedtime*), STEM Night; *Spring Showcase and Celebration of Learning*; and volunteer trainings.

**Family Liaison:** Pathfinder's Family Liaison is available from 9:15 – 3:45 p.m. each day. Support to parents and families includes:

- Helps families connect with our school as well as community services and support
- Directs parents and families to appropriate school staff and assists with problem-solving
- Assists in recruiting, training and coordinating volunteers, including Parent Natural Leaders and our Madres Latinas group
- Provides school tours for all new students and families
- Interprets (Spanish-English) for informal meetings

**Notifications:** Each year we provide the following information to parents:

- District and school report cards
- Teacher and paraeducator qualifications.
- Our school's Title I Schoolwide Improvement Plan and Parent-Teacher-Student compacts.
- Invitation for involvement in school and district decision making and with our School Improvement Plan.

**Parent Input:** Parent input is welcome regarding school operations as well as decisions regarding children. Formal input is sought on a regular basis through conferences, Multi-Disciplinary and IEP Team meetings, surveys, responses to school newsletter items and through discussions at parent meetings. Informal input is welcome at any time. Parents should contact the principal regarding school issues, and the child's classroom teacher regarding student or classroom issues. Parent input is valued and will be considered along with the input and recommendations of school staff.

**Progress Reporting:** Written progress reports are sent home with students at the end of each trimester (every 13 weeks). Progress reports are intended to inform the parent and student regarding achievement and effort in academic areas as well as attendance, personal/social development and work habits/study skills. In academic areas, marks compare student achievement to grade level standards. An abbreviated version of the report card is shared with parents during the November conference. A more detailed report card is provided at the end of March or early April and in June.

**Title Plan:** Parents will receive information about the Title Schoolwide plan, requirements of the law, and parent rights and responsibilities through multiple means, including a fall newsletter, the school website, through personal communication with our Parent and Family Liaison, and at an annual parent meeting. A copy of our Parent Involvement Policy will be provided to parents at this meeting. The policy will also be available on our school website and in our school office. Parents are invited to provide input on the Title plan and parent involvement policy at the annual meeting and are welcome to comment or provide suggestions at any time during the year.

**Visitors and Volunteers:** Parents and other adults are welcome and encouraged to volunteer and observe in classrooms, but we ask that all guests follow school and district policy so that visits are productive and not disruptive to the learning process. Whether the purpose is to observe or volunteer, we ask that parents contact the teacher to arrange the date and time in advance. (Observations in a classroom other than that of parents' own children should be arranged through the Principal.) We request that guests avoid dropping in unannounced as teachers need to prepare in order to productively use volunteers. Also, visitors are not allowed during testing, and certain other educational activities.

