



Thelma Barker Elementary School

2024-2025
Parent and Family
Engagement Policy for
Shared Student Success

Revised August 1, 2024

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Thelma Barker Elementary will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Thelma Barker Elementary values the contributions and involvement of families to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Thelma Barker Elementary will support family engagement and how families can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it revised?

Thelma Barker Elementary School invited all families to attend our Back to Barker Bash to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, the school improvement plan, our school-parent compact, and the family engagement budget. Additionally, family input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through an online form. The plan is posted on our school website for families to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. Families can also give feedback during several meetings and activities during the school year.

Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Thelma Barker Elementary will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family

members with limited English, with disabilities, and of migratory children.

Where is it available?

At the beginning of the year, the plan is included in the student handbook and is sent home with all students. As a reminder, we will email the plan to all families in August before the scheduled Open House event. The plan will also be posted on the school website. Families can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the front office of the school.

What is Title I?

Thelma Barker Elementary is identified as a Title I school as part of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging state academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

2024-25 District Goals

All schools in the district will score in the 90th percentile or above as measured by the TNReady assessment.

2024-25 Thelma Barker Elementary School Goals

In 2023-24, increase proficiency on TNReady in reading.

The school focus for **reading** is:

K-1: Beginning sounds and sight words

K-4: Vocabulary development

The school focus for **math** is:

K-5: Place value, fluency and estimation



Parent and Family Engagement

Thelma Barker Elementary believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, ensuring that:

- Families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- Families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; and
- Families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, Thelma Barker Elementary and our families will develop a school-parent compact. A compact is a written agreement that families, teachers, and students jointly develop to explain how everyone will work together to ensure all students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from families, students, and teachers during various events and the annual Title I meeting. The school-parent compacts are also displayed in each classroom, shared with families during parent-teacher conferences, posted on our school website and extra copies are always available in the front office. If you would like to provide feedback on the compact any time during the year, please contact Karen Edwards, principal of Thelma Barker, at 731-668-8831.



Thelma Barker Elementary is branching out!

In order to strengthen our school and reach our goals, Thelma Barker Elementary will take the following measures to empower and support families as an important foundation.

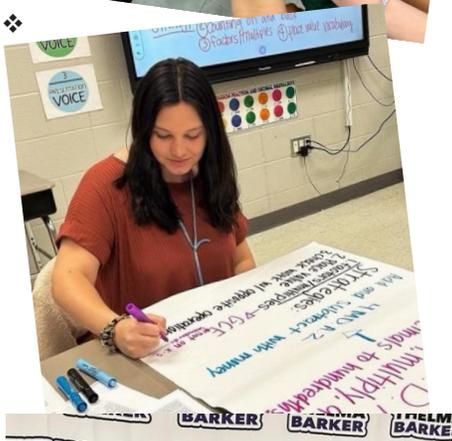
We will:

Ensure that all information related to school and family programs, meetings, and other activities is published in English, Spanish, and Arabic; posted on the school website; and included in the monthly school newsletter for all families.

- ❖ Provide monthly trainings for staff during their planning periods on strategies to improve communication with families and ideas to increase family engagement in reading and math for our students outside of the classroom. Staff will also share promising practices in family engagement during regularly scheduled faculty meetings.
- ❖ Partner with early childhood programs, middle and high schools, college- and career-ready resources or organizations, parent resource centers, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- ❖ Share information in English, Spanish, and Arabic on the school blog and in the school newsletter for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways families can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- ❖ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, through phone messages, our website, social media and newsletters.

Work with our families to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.

- ❖ Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- ❖ Use our Partners in Education and School Community Team to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parent and family engagement policy.
- ❖ Offer literacy and computer classes for parents and family members to help further enhance their various educational levels.
- ❖ Collect feedback from parents and family members at all events, place input cards around the building and post a suggestion form on the school website in order to respond to parents' requests for additional support for parent and family engagement activities.



Let's get together!

Thelma Barker Elementary will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement and support a partnership among the school, families, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Most meetings for parents and family members are held at various times throughout the day and in the early evening. See the entire listing of events on our website:

Annual Title I Meeting - August 1, 2024 3:00 P.M. and September 19, 2024 4:00 PM

We invite you to an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact. Invitations will be emailed, posted in the school newsletter and on social media.

Back to Barker Bash -TBA P.M.

Meet your child's teacher and learn about important grade level skills and standards that your child will be working on this year.

ESL Family Night -August 22, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

ESL families are invited to come out and learn more about the ESL program. They will learn about tutoring programs and how to communicate with teachers.

Parent-Teacher and Student Conferences Sept. 19, 2024, and Feb. 13, 2025

Scheduled updates on your child's progress.

Veteran's Day Parade - TBA

Parade to celebrate our staff and parent Veterans.

Literacy/Math Nights - TBA

Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Thelma Barker Elementary and our families have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

