



## Judson Independent School District Family/Community Engagement Initiative

### Background

The Judson Independent School District is a Texas Education Agency fully-accredited public school district in Bexar County. Encompassing 7 different municipalities (Converse, Kirby, Selma, Live Oak, Universal City, San Antonio, and Schertz), Judson ISD is uniquely positioned to represent a diverse population of citizens and their scholars who will benefit from the many educational opportunities Judson ISD has to offer.

Judson ISD recognizes that educational opportunity and achievement gaps can be alleviated only when authentic partnerships exist among the school district (i.e. Superintendent, administrators, faculty, and staff) and parents, families and students, to support goal-setting and decision-making. In addition, with the passing of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in December of 2015 (the latest reauthorization of 1965's ESEA), a bolstered focus on family and community engagement has been placed front and center of our work in public education. A genuine approach to parent and community engagement result in full-scale support for campus and district programs, shared ownership of successes, collaborative initiatives and federal funding for Judson ISD.

Family engagement is especially important to Judson ISD and its board members, as we strive to serve our scholars with the greatest educational experience possible, at every campus.

Below, you will find the 2016-17 strategic plan for Family/Community Engagement, including our mission, vision, goals and strategies to be implemented.

<b>FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>
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### Our Family/Community Engagement Purpose

To ensure that Judson ISD is in state and federal compliance with family/community engagement requirements. In addition, we shall establish and foster parent/family organizations on every campus across the Judson ISD, growing parent/family advocates and partners who are committed to seeing the success of every child in Judson ISD.

### Our Family/Community Engagement Mission

Establish a network of active and well-informed Judson ISD champions (staff/families/community members) who are willing and able to support their respective campus on various family/community engagement initiatives, fundraise for special programming and serve as school advocates in instances when there are external visitors on campus. Those interested in local and state-wide advocacy, in support of Texas public schools, will also be provided with the training necessary to educate the public and policy-makers on the successes and needs of Judson ISD, and Texas public schools, generally, in order to encourage the support for legislation that will benefit public school students. This mission can be supported through:

- I. Appeal to Judson ISD Board Members to reach out to their networks, legislators, to learn about Judson ISD successes and the varying educational opportunities within the district.
- II. Identify families/supporters who are willing to share their story about the positive impact Judson ISD has had on their child(ren).

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- III. Actively engage in the pro-public school narrative, through a variety of avenues, including but not limited to campus webpages, school social media pages, neighborhood association meetings, faith-based organization affiliations, casual conversation with neighbors and networks, etc.
- IV. Encourage families to share what they learn with their students, who are directly impacted by decisions made involving public schools, so that they, too, may engage in positive conversations regarding their schools.
- V. Provide training to individuals interested in engaging in deeper advocacy efforts with local and state elected officials.

### **Our Family/Community Engagement Vision**

As San Antonio's 4<sup>th</sup> largest public school district, serving 23,000 students, Judson ISD has a responsibility to the many families and community members within our footprint to provide a space for collaboration and progress forward as a whole. Judson ISD will:

- I. Develop and foster the education of Judson ISD board members, families and staff leaders on innovative family initiatives taking place in other areas that can be adopted and tailored to serve our Judson families and students.
- II. Solicit Judson ISD board members to reach out to key legislators and invite them to tour a Judson campus and meet with key Judson representatives (school team, parents/families, students, etc.) to engage in dialogue regarding successes and need.
- III. Provide families the space to engage in meaningful dialogue with school leaders on what it means to advocate for their child, on their respective campus and on a broader scale, what advocacy means for Judson's success and how to engage with other decision-makers.
- IV. Work collaboratively with community partners who can support our families.

### **Our Family/Community Engagement Goals**

The goals of family/community engagement reflect the needs that Judson ISD, and all public school districts, have in order to ensure that we are equipped with the necessary resources to best serve our scholars and their families. Ultimately, Judson ISD's family/community initiative strives to:

- I. Family Partnerships
  - A. *Establish a PTA/PTO on every campus*
    - i. Show families Judson ISD's commitment to working collaboratively with them for the betterment of the school and school district.
    - ii. Schools will build relationships with parent leaders on each campus by reaching out and asking them to participate in leadership opportunities at the school and within the district (Site-based decision making committees, DIP involvement, Student Health Advisory Council, etc.)
    - iii. Schools will learn from families about the resources they may bring to support student/campus success
  - B. *Establish a Parent/Teacher Ad Hoc Committee (of PTA/PTO members)*
    - i. Committee can work together to support parent/teacher nights (math nights, reading nights, etc.) by offering suggestions on how to better engage parents, increase parent attendance at events, etc.
    - ii. Committee will identify and establish a parent/teacher contract that will be introduced at the start of the school year (orientation) to establish expectations on



both the part of the teacher and parent. Will establish a mutual respect and responsibility to the students in the class

- iii. Committee will meet with administrators to share ideas for how parents can support student success

*C. Encourage a training series for parents on College and Career Readiness Opportunities*

- i. Ask that school counselor(s) provide at least two presentations, annually, on general student opportunities for college and career programming (i.e. internships, externships, summer programs, etc.)
- ii. Invite school and district administrators to present to parents on how to help their students focus on their futures and how to create goals.
- iii. Invite district/campus partners to provide presentations on opportunities for their students offered by their respective institutions. They would also be asked to express how participation in such opportunities will positively impact their future goals.

II. Community Involvement

*A. Build relationship with neighborhood associations and faith based community in the area*

- i. Educate the community on the great things happening on campus and within the district, by working with community organization leaders to facilitate a presentation to be given by knowledgeable administrators/faculty that will attend community meetings to present on pertinent topics, as they relate to the particular area and/or group they will be addressing
- ii. Address misconceptions that community members may have about campus/district
- iii. Build relationships to support student success and family support, by including community members in district-wide, public conversations on student success initiatives, sending out community bulletins notifying area neighborhoods about open Board meetings, as well as campus/district events that are open to the public, and again attending neighborhood association meetings, COPS Metro meetings, and faith-based organization meetings, even when there is nothing to present on. This will send the message that we (the campus and district) are willing and active partners in the community.

*B. Build relationships with local non-profit agencies and businesses*

- i. Identify resources that non-profits and businesses can offer to support student success (possible internships, summer enrichment classes, part-time paid positions, etc.) and offer family support where it may be needed
- ii. Educate the agencies and businesses on the great things taking place on campus by working with non-profit and business leaders to facilitate a presentation to be given by knowledgeable administrators/faculty that will attend community meetings to present on pertinent topics, as they relate to the particular non-profit and/or business they will be addressing

*C. Build on mentor and tutor program*

- i. Recruit mentors and tutors from local agencies, businesses and community groups within the area.



- ii. Through growth in mentorship and tutoring, students will gain exposure to a variety of career paths that will be shared through student/mentor or student/tutor interactions
- iii. Teachers will gain support from external entities who now have a vested interest in the students on campus

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