

Promoting Statewide Family Engagement Frameworks: State Consortium on Family Engagement

Productive Parent/Teacher Partnerships Webinar

April 28, 2020

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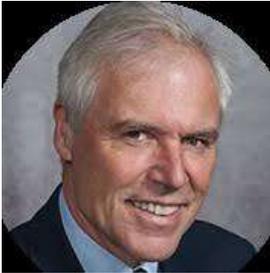


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State Consortium on Family Engagement

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Program Director, Early Childhood Initiatives

Council of Chief State School Officers



Role of the State Education Agencies (SEA)

- ⌘ Family engagement has a history of being an inherent part of public education
- ⌘ SEA started implementation of their ESSA plans
- ⌘ SEA support for families is typically fragmented and not coordinated

Establishing a State Consortium on Family Engagement

Principles

1. Focus on equity and partnership
2. Internal and external stakeholder engagement
3. Coherent statewide approach, including definition, set of principles, goals, and strategies
4. Alignment from Birth to Graduation
5. Evidence-based and impactful strategies

Cohorts

⌘ Project period: July 2017 – March 2020

Goal: Development and adoption of Birth to Grade 12 Family Engagement Frameworks

Internal and external stakeholder process

Cohort 1 (July 2017 – December 2018): AR, CT, MA, MS, NY, PA, SC

Cohort 2 (June 2018 – March 2020): CO, KS, IL, MD, ME, MI, NV, ND, OH, OK, WY

Impact

- ⌘ Completed: 7 (AR, CO, CT, MI, MS, PA, SC)
- ⌘ Close to completion (draft and in approval process): 6 (IL, KS, MA, MD, OH, OK)
- ⌘ Stakeholder engagement phase: 5 (ME, ND, NY, NV, WY)

Overall Impact

- ⌘ The project helped redefine what family engagement is (consistent emphasis on equity and engaging all families, empowering families to become decision-makers, families/parents' aspirations for themselves and their children)
- ⌘ Created statewide infrastructure of family engagement (strength model vs. compliance)
- ⌘ Strengthened state role in supporting families in education (mind-shift from parent involvement to engaging families and effectively operationalizing it statewide).



**Pennsylvania's Story: Creating a Birth
through College, Career, Community Ready
Family Engagement Framework**

Pennsylvania Birth through College, Career, Community Ready Family Engagement Framework



A tool to guide the implementation of effective practices, use of shared language and a family engagement continuum for families across their child's educational lifespan.

PENNSYLVANIA

FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT
COALITION

Over 100
Internal and External
Stakeholders



40%
of Coalition
Members

Participated in
Development/Writing
Workgroups

100% of Participants
indicated

**" their input was valued &
reflected in the Draft
Framework"**

We parents, learning community staff and partners have talked for years about the importance of creating a statewide vision of family engagement that sets/creates a shared guide, goals and expectations. To finally realize such a vision is phenomenal and invaluable to our families, children, learning communities and partners in Pennsylvania!

Pa Family Engagement Coalition
Participant



Family Engagement Definition

Effective family engagement is
intentional, meaningful and impactful.

Learning Communities value and support families in their role as a child's first teacher, and ***leverage*** the ***expertise, knowledge and leadership*** of ***families and community partners*** to shape the educational environment at the program, classroom, school, state and national level.

These partnerships are ***strengths based, culturally responsive*** and ***rely on two-way communications***. They focus on the ***shared goal*** of positive learning and developmental outcomes for children.

Framework Components

- Introduction
- Definitions
- Foundational Practices, Standards and Supportive Practices
- Policy Background
- Resources



Foundational Practices

- Leverage family and community partner knowledge, expertise, and leadership.
- Build culturally & linguistically responsive, inclusive and equitable partnerships with families.
- Build inclusive and safe Learning Communities.
- Engage in Professional growth.

Family Engagement Standards

Learning Communities...

- connect families to community resources that support families' interests, goals, and needs;
- build partnerships with families that are strengths based, authentic, reciprocal and respectful;
- partner with families to identify information, resources, and strategies to support them in their roles as: teachers, models, encouragers, monitors, and advocates, as they support their child's learning and development;

Family Engagement Standards, continued

Learning Communities...

- provide intentional opportunities for families to connect and engage with each other;
- support families as they develop their leadership and advocacy skills;
- build partnerships with families during times of transition.

Next Steps

- Download (on the PDE Website) bit.ly/FEFramework
- Introduction Course is available: <https://www.pakeys.org/an-introduction-to-pennsylvanias-family-engagement-framework/>
- Collaborative partners:
 - Mid Atlantic Equity Center (MAEC)
 - Fred Rodgers Center



Thank You!

Sarah Holland

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Office of Child Development
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MiFamily:

Michigan's Family
Engagement Framework



Michigan Department of Education's Family Engagement Leadership Team

Noel Kelty, Director, Office of Great Start/Early
Childhood Development and Family Education

Al Thomas, Regional Consultant
Office of Educational Supports

Shanon Everett, Consultant, Office of Great
Start/Early Childhood Development and Family
Education

Scott Martin- Consultant, Office of School Health
and Safety

Michigan Department of Education's Family Engagement Stakeholder's Committee

- Parents (4)
- ISDs/LEAs (2)
- Education Alliance (1)
- MEA/AFT (2)
- Head Start Providers (1)
- Special Education- Part C and Part B (3)
- Community Organizations (4)
- Community Schools (1)
- Higher Education (1)
- Public Libraries (1)
- MDE (10 offices, 17 staff)

From Involvement to Engagement

**Individual
Responsibility**

**Shared Responsibility
in Partnership**

**Deficit-Based/
Adversarial**

Strength-Based and Collaborative

Random Acts

Systemic

**Add-On and
One-Time Project**

**Integrated and Sustained with
Purposeful Connections to Learning**

Compliance

**Ownership and Continuous
Improvement**

2
3

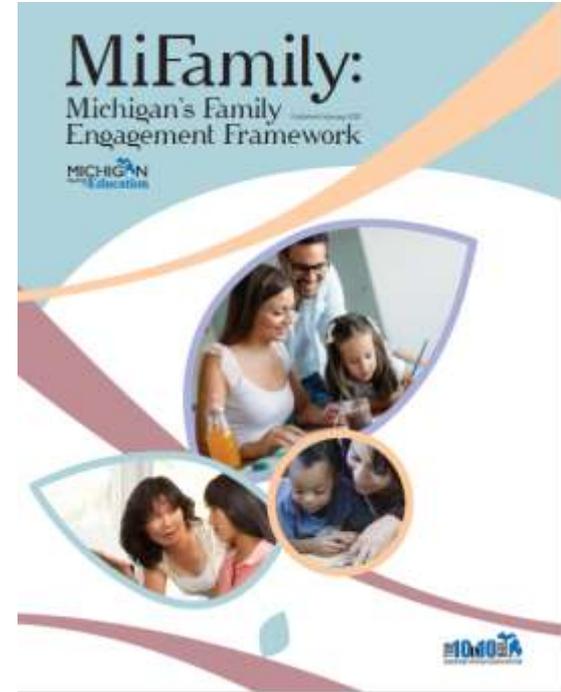




MDE's Family Engagement Definition and Principles

Family engagement is a collaborative relationship between families, educators, providers, and partners to support and improve the learning, development, and health of every learner.

MiFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework



MiFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework

- Version 1 was created and used to conduct 9 focus groups (approximately 200 educators, providers, and partners) in the fall of 2019
- Modifications were made based on recurring themes from the focus groups



MiFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework

What it is

- A Prenatal through post-secondary framework to guide educators and practitioners
- Created and revised with stakeholders in the field
- A first edition
- The first of many resources to aid in engaging families
- About 10 pages of content

What it is not

- Meant to be used by families
- Mandated
- Compliance focused
- Stale and outdated
- Too long!!!

Why Does Family Engagement Matter?

Family engagement is increasingly emerging as a primary predictor for children's academic success¹. Family experiences are significant predictors of cognitive skills, and social-emotional skills, such as motivation, attention, impulse control, and self-confidence². Studies of family engagement in education reveal large associations between family engagement and success for students. Child outcomes improve considerably when schools and families collaborate on individual children's needs, goals, programs, and progress³. Effective family engagement improves classroom dynamics, increases teacher expectations, student-teacher relationships, and cultural competence⁴. Family engagement can be the key to improving school dropout rates and foster improved educational aspirations⁵. Additionally, family engagement impacts student

Definition of Family Engagement: a collaborative relationship between families, educators, providers, and partners to support and improve the learning, development, and health of every learner.

achievement, regardless of race or culture⁶. Promoting family engagement through effective home to school collaborations supports the continuity of learning and outcomes for children and families. Quality, research-based family strategies:

- Build strong parent-school relationships, promoting positive outcomes for students⁷.
- Provide needed social and intellectual resources that have a positive impact on school improvement efforts⁸. Activities include participating in policy councils, or acting as a school liaison⁹.
- Recognize that all families, regardless of income, education, or cultural background, are involved in their child's learning and want their child to do well¹⁰.
- Are strongly linked to higher levels of academic achievement, increased attendance, more positive attitudes toward school, and higher graduation rates¹¹.
- Supports high expectations for learners and helping them make real-world connections¹².

Setting the Foundation

- Latest Research
- MDE's Family Engagement Definition and Principles



“ We need to change the preposition. We need to start doing “with” families, not “to” families. ”

— Northern Michigan School Administrator

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: How to Engage Families

Family engagement is a shared responsibility in which schools are committed to reach out to families in meaningful ways and families are committed to actively supporting their children. Authentic family engagement fosters personal relationships, respect, and mutual understanding with families. Authentic family engagement also includes sharing data with families about their learner, supporting home cultures, and aligning family engagement activities with program or school improvement goals²². The MDE, in conjunction with the Family Engagement Stakeholder's Committee, conducted a deep analysis of research while garnering additional stakeholder voice, which led to five family engagement principles supporting MDE's definition of family engagement. The principles guide the development and inclusion of resources and strategies that research demonstrates what most impacts authentic family engagement.

Michigan's Family Engagement Principles

1. Relationships are the cornerstone of family engagement.

- Adopt an evidence-based home visiting program
- Building Bridges/Cultural Proficiency Activities
- Planned positive communications with all families

2. Families are engaged and supported partners in their child's education.

- Including families on planning teams
- Using surveys throughout the year to capture family input and report out results
- Linking families to community resources

3. Family engagement efforts are purposeful, intentional, and clearly identify learner outcomes.

- Academic Parent-Teacher Teams
- Design family events with family input and use the events to teach families skills they can reinforce at home
- Student led conferences

4. Family engagement efforts are tailored to address all families so all learners are successful.

- Seek barriers and remove them
- Provide interpreters and offer communications in multiple languages

- Provide training to staff
- Offer childcare at events
- Seek barriers and remove them.

5. Positive learning environments contribute to family engagement and learning.

- Involve families when creating security and visiting policies
- Administration and staff visible in halls, at entries, at the buses, and at pickup/drop off
- Community Schools Approach

Building Capacity to Do the Work: Stakeholders' Roles and Actions

Family engagement is a shared responsibility in which schools are committed to reach out to families in meaningful ways and families are equipped to actively support their children. This guide has been developed for educators and providers of programs and schools to support families to become the best partners in their child's education that they can be. Through the development of trusting relationships, two-way communication, and activities aligned with learner outcomes, family engagement efforts foster learning and development. This guide will support educators and providers of educational programs while accompanying family guides will support families. Authentic family engagement fosters building personal relationships, respect, and mutual understanding with families, sharing data with families about their learner, supporting home cultures, and aligning family engagement activities with program or school improvement goals²⁴.

The MDE, in conjunction with the Family Engagement Stakeholder's Committee, conducted a deep analysis of research while garnering additional stakeholder voice, which led to five family engagement principles supporting MDE's definition of family engagement. The principles guide the development and inclusion of resources and strategies that research demonstrates most impacts quality family engagement.

An overwhelming and recurring theme found in focus groups with families across Michigan has been the concept, "nothing about us without us!" As you plan family engagement activities and initiatives, it is important that families partner with schools and programs and schools in the planning process.

“It makes me feel important when I feel I can be a part of something that matters.”

— Mecosta-Oshtemo Parent, January 2018

The 5 Principles

- Outlines the five principles and provides three evidence-based practices related to each principle
- Overview of the stakeholder involvement process

Chart 2: What Does High-Impact Family Engagement Look Like in Elementary Schools?

Higher Impact on student learning and development	Moderate Impact	Lower Impact
1. Back to School Night class meetings where families and teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share learning strategies Review key skills for students with home learning tips Develop a communications plan 	Open House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families tour school, chat with teachers Classroom visits to meet teacher Exhibits of student work 	Back to School night in the auditorium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel of speakers Pass out student handbooks Hand out school calendar
2. Regular two-way calls/texts/emails to share progress and tips.	Positive personal phone calls home	One-way communication such as texts, group emails, and messaging.
3. Family centers, staffed, conduct workshops on learning strategies, and provide referrals to social services, and/or host informal gatherings.	Family resource room with toys, games and books to borrow	School newsletters with generic messages
4. Relationship-building home visits provided by teachers, voluntary for both teachers and families and available for all families.	Coffee with the principal; Muffins for Moms; Donuts with Dads	Potlucks, other traditional whole-school-based events
5. Story quilting workshops and poetry slams where families, teachers and students all tell their stories, share their work.	School book club and authors' tea featuring student writers	Student performances
6. Classroom observations with mini-lessons; weekly data-sharing folders go home, with space for family comments; academic parent-teacher teams	Interactive homework with tips for home learning	Curriculum nights
7. Student-led conferences with portfolios of student work, followed by 1:1 conversations about learning, to set goals.	Family-teacher conferences twice a year, available evenings and weekend	Family-teacher conferences, during work day

From Vision to Practice

Charts that can be used to assess current practice and gather ideas for improved practice

- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- Secondary
- After School Programs

MICHIGAN
Department of Education

State Board of Education & Superintendent

Top 10 in 10

Academic Standards

Career and Technical Education

Early Learners and Care

Educator Services

Family Engagement

Parent Dashboard Resources

Flexible Learning Options

MDE / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family Engagement

Coming Soon: *MPFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework*

Michigan Department of Education's Family Engagement Definition:

Family engagement is an integral component of Michigan's Top 10 in 10 goals. Goal 5 of 7 strategic goals necessary to move Michigan forward as a premier education state is to ensure that parents and guardians are engaged and supported partners in their child's education. Family engagement has been integrated as a priority in the Michigan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan and various other initiatives such as the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and Whole Child definition.

The Definition. A CLEAR CONSENSUS

The first step in supporting Michigan's learners and

For the most up-to-date resources, materials, and contact information, please access our **Family Engagement website**

Thank you!

When families engage from birth to college entry:

- Attendance increases
- Improved attitudes toward learning
- Grades improve
- Behavior improves
- More students enroll in higher-level education programs
- Graduation rates go up
- More students enroll in post-secondary education



(Henderson, & Mapp, 2002).



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Questions & Discussion

Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars

EMERGING MODELS WEBINAR

Following the Science Upstream: EarlyBird App Identifies Children with Reading Challenges
Tuesday, May 5, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

SPECIAL WEBINAR

Bringing Noggin to Local Communities: A Special Opportunity for GLR Communities
Tuesday, May 12, 12:30 p.m. ET/9:30 a.m. PT

EMERGING MODELS WEBINAR

Early Childhood Innovation for Impact in a Crisis: A Show+Tell Pop Up with Promise
Tuesday, May 12, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

PARTNERS WEBINAR

The Science of Reading, Part 2: Applying the Science in the Classroom
Tuesday, May 19, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

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