

# Mississippi Family Engagement

## Framework and Toolkit 2.0



**Mississippi Department of Education**  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COALITION

## **MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Lance Evans, Ed. D. · State Superintendent of Education

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# Introduction

Families play a vital role in a child's early development and learning. Therefore, a key goal of family engagement is to support family well-being. Mississippi's family engagement initiatives promote the safety, health, and financial security of families, enabling them to guide and nurture their children effectively. Both educators and families recognize the importance of social-emotional skills—such as managing emotions, empathizing, and collaborating—as essential for success in school and life. However, schools, families, and communities are not always in sync on how to develop those competencies.

The Mississippi Department of Education values the collaboration among administrators, teachers, families, and communities in promoting positive outcomes for lifelong learning. Family engagement is a critical component of high-quality education across all stages of learning. When implemented effectively, it supports children's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development, regardless of ethnic or socioeconomic background.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, family engagement benefits families—particularly those with limited access to resources—by connecting them to support systems, strengthening peer networks, increasing their understanding of child development, and offering training to enhance caregiving skills and job opportunities.

In 2017, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) provided a Family Engagement Technical Assistance opportunity to coordinate the development of a framework. The framework contains a set of goals, family engagement practices, and identifies the state's family engagement initiatives to support education communities.

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<sup>1</sup>Christenson, S.L. (2000). Families and schools: Rights, responsibilities, resources, and relationships. In R.C. Pianta & M.J. Cox (Eds.), *The transition to kindergarten* (pp.143–177). Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co. and McWayne, C., Hampton, V., Fantuzzo, J., Cohen, H.L., & Sekino, Y. (2004). A multivariate examination of parent involvement and the social and academic competencies of urban kindergarten children. *Psychology in the Schools*, 41(3), 363–377.

# MS Family Engagement and COVID-19

The original family engagement framework was released in July 2019. Over the years, many educators and service providers have been trained on the Mississippi Family Engagement Framework. This work was expanded during COVID-19 and post COVID-19. Efforts to close learning gaps and return to school proved the need to continue the utilization of family engagement lessons learned during school shutdowns.

The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly impacted family engagement in schools, leading to both challenges and opportunities:

## Challenges:

- **Increased Parental Responsibilities:** With the sudden shift to remote learning, parents assumed greater roles in their children's education, balancing instructional support with work and other obligations. This heightened involvement often led to stress and uncertainty.
- **Access and Fair Play:** Unevenness in access to technology and reliable internet exacerbated existing imbalances, making it difficult for some families to engage effectively in their children's education.
- **Communication Barriers:** The abrupt move to online platforms highlighted challenges in effective communication between schools and families, particularly for those unaccustomed to digital tools.

## Opportunities:

- **Strengthened School-Family Partnerships:** The pandemic underscored the necessity of robust collaboration between schools and families. Educators recognized families as essential partners in supporting student learning, leading to more comprehensive engagement strategies.
- **Innovative Engagement Strategies:** Schools adopted creative approaches to involve families, such as virtual meetings, online resources, and flexible communication methods, fostering a more adaptable engagement environment.
- **Focus on Holistic Support:** There was a heightened emphasis on addressing students' social-emotional needs, with schools collaborating closely with families to provide comprehensive support during uncertain times.

In summary, while COVID-19 presented significant obstacles to traditional family engagement, it also catalyzed a reevaluation and strengthening of the home-school connection, highlighting the critical role families play in the educational ecosystem. The Mississippi Family Engagement Framework and Toolkit 2.0 reflects these lessons and practices.

## MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community.

## VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens.

# MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

1

All Students Proficient and Showing Growth in All Assessed Areas



2

Every Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career



3

Every Child Has Access to a High-Quality Early Childhood Program



4

Every School Has Effective Teachers and Leaders



5

Every Community Effectively Uses a World-Class Data System to Improve Student Outcomes



6

Every School and District is Rated "C" or Higher



# Purpose

**Mississippi's Family Engagement Framework** is designed to support intentional actions for implementing family engagement policies and practices at the state level and among educators who serve **ALL** children. Families are key to a child's academic success. Every educational community should invest in systems that embrace and empower families of students from birth through young adulthood.

## Vision for Family Engagement in Education

Family engagement for school success should focus on building trusting relationships with families and fostering consistent, two-way communication throughout the learning journey. Effective family engagement programs should offer activities that prepare, inform, educate, and engage all responsible individuals invested in the educational success of a child.<sup>2</sup>

Research affirms that students with **involved parents** – regardless of income, background characteristics, or level of achievement – **are more likely** to do better in school. **Partnership programs** can increase student achievements, improve attendance and behavior, and promote positive social skills. When partnership practices are **linked to school goals** (e.g., reading, math, attendance, etc.), **additional and distinct families** become involved in ways that **directly assist** students' learning and development.

## Key Objectives

The Framework will enhance the educational community's capacity to implement culturally responsive family engagement policies and practices to support families' abilities to promote school readiness. Specifically, this document aims to:

- **Recognize family engagement as foundational to education** and a core element of academic achievement;
- **Define common goals for family engagement** across the education system and within individual educators' practices;
- **Provide actionable family engagement strategies** and connect educators with current resources to implement these strategies effectively.

## Engaging Community Stakeholders

Numerous community organizations across Mississippi, such as museums, public libraries, healthcare providers, community colleges, and advocacy groups offer family engagement initiatives aligned with the Framework's goals. These stakeholders play a vital role in supporting the educational community, fostering a holistic approach to child development and family support.

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<sup>2</sup> Implementing Effective Programs, Engagement Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships. Joyce L. Epstein, Ph.D., Director of Family and Community for Student Success in School, Family, and Community Partnerships

**The guiding principles of the Mississippi Family Engagement Coalition** is to effectively empower and foster a strong, foundation of family engagement strategies to serve childcare directors, school administrators, educators, children, and families in the following ways:

- **Fostering Positive, Respectful Relationships:** Establish respectful, empathetic relationships between educators and families as the foundation for successful family engagement strategies.
- **Encouraging Needs-Based Strategies:** Promote family engagement strategies that are tailored to meet family's needs, overcome barriers, and foster student achievement.
- **Supporting Advocacy for Educational Needs:** Foster advocacy from families, educators, and community members for all children's educational needs.
- **Empower Family-Centered Partnerships:** Develop strong school-family partnerships to gain a greater understanding of how a family's strengths, needs, and resources affect a child's safety, stability, well-being, and school readiness success.
- **Providing Ongoing Professional Learning:** Facilitate ongoing conversations for families and educators with skills needed to build solid partnerships, inform decisions, and effective advocacy for all children.

**FAMILY** is a fundamental social group in communities consisting of a child/ren and a parent, grandparent, guardian, caregiver, or any responsible individual invested in the educational success of a child.

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT** is an on-going, shared responsibility of families, educational programs, and communities for all student learning and academic achievement that continues from birth to young adulthood.

**EQUITABLE** means that families are empowered to work with educators, public officials, and community partners to remove any barriers that prevent them from being fully engaged in their child(ren)'s education. This includes access to ample opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills to become full and equal partners in that deliberate and intentional work.

# The Mississippi Family Engagement Framework Structure

The Mississippi Department of Education Family Engagement Framework establishes a set of goals around high quality learning environments. The Mississippi Family Engagement Framework demonstrates the natural progression of transitioning from early learning settings to formalized school settings by creating a structure for educators that influences family-friendly schools to support student academic achievement, development, and success. As state educators work to support families with young children, they should target these specific family engagement goals.

## GOALS

1. Welcome and Empower ALL Families
2. Increase Student Success
3. Build Leadership and Capacity
4. Develop Community Investment and Partnerships



# CONTINUOUS SYSTEMS APPROACH

A continuous systems approach works together to achieve the optimal child outcomes for successful lifelong learners. Each system provides guidance of how Family Engagement outcomes for programs lead to beneficial family outcomes, which ultimately lead to successful outcomes in children's behavior, social emotional development, and school success.



Implementing a systematic plan for family, school, and community partnerships involves coordinating the work of guidance counselors, social workers, health professionals, community, parent involvement specialists, instructional staff, staff, administrators, and most importantly, families and children. Epstein (2002), Halgunseth (2009), and NAEYC (2009) describe components of a well-coordinated system:

## Program Standards

- Ensure that all program guidelines are clear and emphasize ongoing family/community outreach.
- Provide all district staff, including administrators, teachers, assistant teachers, social workers, counselors, nurses, food service staff, and custodial staff with training on societal mindfulness, sensitivity, and research-based family engagement practices.

## Culture and Community

- Promote the acceptance of all families by integrating daily activities in the curriculum that teach awareness and appreciation of different cultures, practices, and traditions of children in individual classrooms and within the community at large.
- Encourage staff to reflect on how personal experiences influence their cultural perspectives and approaches to child rearing, development, and learning.

## Family Engagement

- Get to know each family, focusing on their strengths, knowledge, and unique contributions.
- Conduct home visits, when families are comfortable, before and during the school year. Visits made by classroom teachers and/or school social workers can provide staff with a foundational understanding of the home environment, family dynamics, child and family interests, and any needs.
- Offer resources and services that promote positive child rearing skills and an understanding of child development, including the importance of play and experiential learning in effective kindergarten classrooms.
- Engage families in curriculum-related activities at home, providing strategies that help guide their children's success.
- Establish a resource library with books, games, toys, brochures, and magazines. Ensure these resources are available on a flexible schedule to accommodate families' various work schedules.

### **Communication:**

- Warmly engage families during drop-off and dismissal times, using these moments to share information with families about their child's day.
- Communicate in families' home language as much as possible.
- Provide regular updates on school programs and student progress through school-to-home and home-to-school communications, including family conferences.
- Focus on verbal communication when written language is an obstacle for the family.
- Frequently communicate to families regarding both individual children, classroom content, and expectations.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- Offer families various ways to volunteer, with flexible schedules and activities that feel meaningful to them.
- Ask families to participate in activities that showcase their expertise, special talents, and strengths.

### **Decision Making**

- Include families as participants in decision-making processes through school councils, committees, and family organizations, governance, and advocacy through the school advisory council, committees, action teams, and other family organizations.
- Hold meetings at different times of the day and offer virtual options to accommodate working schedules of families.
- Make it easy for families to attend meetings and trainings by offering childcare.

### **Community Collaboration**

- Provide families with information on health and social services, referring them to community resources as needed and following up with community referrals.
- Coordinate resources and services with local businesses, colleges, state agencies and other entities serving families and the local community.



## GOAL #1

**Families are provided a warm, welcoming, and supportive atmosphere in which they feel comfortable and confident interacting and collaborating with staff actively support and enhance their child's learning.**

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Creating an environment where all stakeholders feel valued, respected, and connected is key to welcoming all families into the school community. Educational leaders, teachers, and staff play a crucial role in fostering positive relationships to build and sustain this welcoming educational atmosphere. Welcoming and empowering ALL families means prioritizing cultural awareness and recognizing each family's unique strengths. Understanding and respecting family dynamics and cultures within the school community helps to identify and remove barriers, creating meaningful opportunities for engagement.

Family engagement begins prior to a child entering school. It is important to begin with understanding the composition of each family unit and acknowledging how family engagement has evolved over time. There has been a shift from "parent involvement" to "family engagement" emphasizing the broader influence of the entire family in a child's development. Recognizing and valuing the impact of family is central in creating and sustaining an environment to promote successful, lifelong learners.

Effective family engagement relies on clear, ongoing, two-way communication and relationship building opportunities. Schools should offer multiple communication methods that are accessible to all families, using family friendly language and providing translations as needed. When families and educators communicate effectively, relationships strengthen, conflicts resolve more easily, and students experience greater progress. Building respectful, trusting connections between school staff, families, and the community is essential for establishing lasting partnerships that support continuous student learning and success.



## OUTCOMES

### Welcome and Empower ALL Families

Families have trusted relationships with school staff. They feel comfortable interacting and working with school staff to address their questions, basic needs, and feel comfortable taking on roles that contribute to their child's learning.



- Establish policies and activities that create a welcoming environment for ALL families.
- Model effective methods for implementing multiple, on-going, meaningful two-way communication with families.
- Provide learning opportunities for families to learn more about social-emotional well-being.
- Gather insights from families through surveys, meetings, open houses, home visits, and phone calls to identify the skills they wish to see their child develop in an educational setting.

- Understand and respond effectively to their children's behavior.
- Apply positive parenting techniques to support their children's learning and developmental milestones.
- Discover new strategies to ensure their children's health and safety.
- Seek support from their child's educational program when facing stress, trauma, or other challenges.
- Express confidence in addressing family specific needs and/or interests including safety, housing, health, employment, and finances.
- Access community resources to meet safety, health, and financial needs, as required.
- Identify challenges to their well-being and have the knowledge, strength, and resources to overcome them.

- Strengthen their self-concept and sense of identity.
- Increase their intellectual growth and curiosity.
- Deepen their understanding of the world, people, experiences, and ideas.
- Enhance their competencies and skills in oral language, literacy, writing, listening, and thinking.
- Develop competencies and skills in mathematical reasoning and scientific exploration.
- Build physical coordination and gross and fine motor skills.
- Cultivate emotional intelligence, and the ability to navigate social situations.
- Foster self-direction, independence, and confidence.
- Nurture cooperative, trusting relationships.
- Encourage natural curiosity and creative potential.
- Instill a lifelong love of learning.



# PROGRAM RESOURCES

## Welcome and Empower ALL Families

### **Center for Parent Information and Resources**

The website provides parents with students of disabilities guidance on interacting with school staff and working together to provide the best services for students.

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/>

### **Common Sense Education**

Provides parents, educators, and advocates with resources, professional development and support in family engagement.

<https://www.commonsense.org/education/toolkit/family-engagement-resources>

### **Edutopia**

Provides family engagement training materials, activities, and literature.

<https://www.edutopia.org/home-school-connections-resources>

### **The Flamboyan Foundation**

Beginning of the Year Toolkit contains sample beginning of the year parent letters, welcome packets, and newsletter templates.

<https://flamboyanfoundation.org/resource/beginning-of-the-year-relationship-building-toolkit/>

<https://flamboyanfoundation.org/resource/newsletter-toolkit/>

### **Head Start**

The Head Start Program Performance Standards provide guidelines and resources for early childhood programs to support family engagement and cultural responsiveness.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov>

### **Illinois Early Learning Project**

The Illinois Early Learning Project Web site is a source of evidence-based, reliable information on early care and education for families, caregivers, and teachers of young children.

<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/>

### **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

NAEYC offers resources and tools for early childhood programs to promote family engagement and create inclusive environments.

<https://www.naeyc.org>

### **National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning**

Provides resources and professional development materials for early childhood educators and programs.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov>

**National PTA Family-School Partnership Standard**

Provide guidelines for creating family-friendly school environments and promoting meaningful family environment

<https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/family-school-partnerships>

**World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA)**

<https://wida.wisc.edu/>

**Zero to Three**

Offers resources and tools for early childhood professionals, including information on family engagement and cultural competency.

<https://www.zerotothree.org>



# **FAMILY RESOURCES**

## **Welcome and Empower ALL Families**

### **Parenting Workshops and Support Groups**

Offer workshops and support groups focused on topics such as child development, positive discipline, and family well-being.

<https://www.today.com/parenting-guides>

### **PBS Parents**

PBS Parents provides resources, activities, and tips for parents to support their children's learning and development. The website offers videos, and educational games covering various topics related to parenting and child education.

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/>

### **Parent Education Programs**

Partner with local organizations or community colleges to offer parent education classes on topics relevant to diverse families, such as language development, literacy, and health.

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org>

### **Child-Care Aware**

Offers information and resources for families seeking quality child-care and early education programs.

<https://www.childcareaware.org>

### **HealthyChildren.org:**

Provides trusted health information and resources for parents and caregivers from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Parenting for Brain**

Parenting for Brain offers evidence-based information and strategies to help parents understand child development and support their children's cognitive, emotional, and social growth.

<https://www.parentingforbrain.com/child-development/>

### **Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR)**

Resources for parents of children with disabilities, including tools to support advocacy and engagement.

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org>

### **National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Resources**

Resources to help parents support their child's education, mental health, and overall development.

<https://www.pta.org>

### **Colorin Colorado: Bilingual Parent Resources**

A bilingual resource for families of English Language Learners (ELL) to support engagement in their child's education.

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/guide/cognate-list-english-and-spanish>



## CHILD RESOURCES

### Welcome and Empower ALL Families

#### **Teaching Tolerance**

Provides free resources to educators to promote respect and understanding in schools.

<https://www.learningforjustice.org>

#### **Sesame Street in Communities**

Offers resources and activities to support children's social, emotional, and physical development.

<https://sesameworkshop.org>

#### **PBS Kids**

Offers educational games, videos, and activities for young children, including resources on diversity and inclusion.

<https://pbskids.org>

#### **The Conscious Kid**

Provides resources and books to support conversations about race, identity, and diversity with young children.

<https://www.theconsciouskid.org>

#### **Child Mind Institute**

The Child Mind Institute is an independent, national nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming the lives of children and families struggling with mental health and learning disorders.

<https://childmind.org>

#### **Khan Academy Kids**

A free, fun, educational program designed for children aged 2-8 with activities that support early literacy, math, and social-emotional development.

<https://learn.khanacademy.org/khan-academy-kids/>

#### **Understood.org**

A resource for families of children with learning and attention issues, providing personalized support and expert advice.

<https://www.understood.org>

#### **Vroom**

A science-based platform providing daily brain-building activities for children from birth to age five.

<https://www.vroom.org>



## **GOAL #2**

**Build positive, encouraging home-school relationships that help children focus their energy on learning and set them up for success in school.**

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Research shows a strong connection between caring, supportive caregiving and close caregiver-child bonds, and positive school readiness. Given the importance of adult-child relationships, it is imperative that Mississippi's family engagement initiatives and educators focus on helping families build positive relationships that nurture their child's learning and development. This starts as early as the transition to parenthood and includes fostering positive, caring relationships among adults—between staff members, and between staff and families.

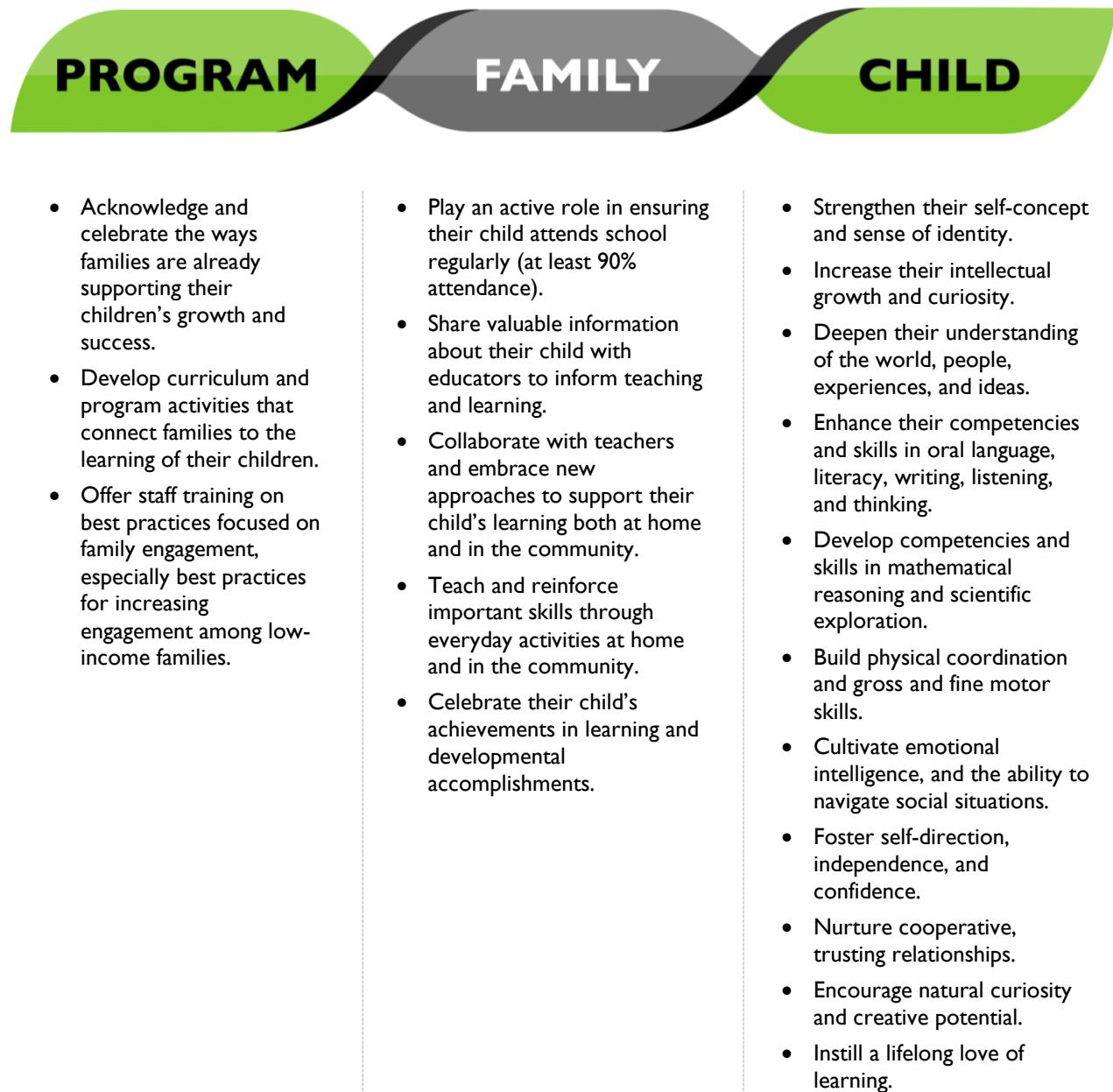
When families are empowered as true partners in education, essential connections are formed that lead to student success. Clearly defined, well-communicated learning goals and strategies help families and teachers work together to ensure that all students succeed. This includes preparing families as students transition throughout their academic years, to support students' academic, social, emotional, and physical needs. When families are equal partners, there is increased student academic performance, better attendance, and a more successful pathway to college- and career-readiness.



# OUTCOMES

## Increase Student Success

Build positive home-school relationships and strategies that help families support their child's learning in the home setting.





# PROGRAM RESOURCES

## Increase Student Success

### **Attendance Works**

Provides information and resources to address and prevent chronic student absenteeism.

<https://attendanceworks.org>

### **Center for Early Childhood Education at Eastern Connecticut State University**

Provides professional development opportunities, research-based resources, and conferences for early childhood educators.

<https://www.easternct.edu/center-for-early-childhood-education/index.html>

### **Early Childhood Investigations Webinars**

Offers free webinars on various topics related to early childhood education, including curriculum development, assessment, and family engagement.

<https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/webinars/>

### **Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA)**

Provides resources and technical assistance to states and programs on implementing evidence-based practices and policies for young children with disabilities.

<https://ectacenter.org/families.asp>

### **The Education Trust: Family Engagement and Student Achievement**

Research that focuses on high-impact family engagement strategies that can boost student achievement, specifically underserved students.

<https://edtrust.org/research-tools-insights/>

### **Gettocollege.org Woodard Hines Foundation**

Provides parents, teachers, and counselors tools to assist in college preparation and planning. This website also offers virtual workshops.

<https://get2college.org/>

### **LENA – Building brains through early talk**

Focuses on increasing interactive talk because it has been proven to be a key factor in early brain development.

[www.lenabig.org](http://www.lenabig.org)

### **MS Beginnings Pre-K Curriculum, Office of Early Childhood Education, Mississippi Department of Education**

The Office of Early Childhood is honored to provide an open-source curriculum for four-year-old preschool classrooms (public, private, childcare, home care, Head Start).

<https://mdek12.org/MBC/?swpmtx=6feee7e95c14a12f24d224dfe3f74933&swpmtxnonce=c1ae1c4fa3>

### **National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER)**

Conducts research and provides resources on effective early childhood education practices, policies, and programs.

<https://nieer.org>

### **Powerful Partnerships: A Teacher's Guide to Engaging Families for Student Success**

By Karen Mapp, Scholastic Professional 2017, ISBN 0545842409

**Reading Rockets**

Provides parents and practitioners resources and materials to assist in proficient reading levels for children.

[www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

**Ready at Five**

Provides information and resources for parents and providers to ensure Kindergarten readiness.

<https://www.readyatfive.org/>

**Ready Rosie: Active Family Engagement**

Make transformative family engagement a reality in every school or program through simple to use tools and support.

[www.readyrosie.com](http://www.readyrosie.com)

**Scholastic – Kid & Family Reading Report**

A statistical report on the benefits of reading to young children.

<http://www.scholastic.com/readingreport/reading-aloud.htm>

**Virtual Lab School**

Provides free online courses to early childhood providers.

<https://www.virtuallabschool.org/>

**Zero to Three**

Provides various resources for children ages zero to three.

[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)



# **FAMILY RESOURCES**

## **Increase Student Success**

### **Child Care Aware**

Offers resources and information for families seeking quality childcare and early education programs.  
<https://www.childcareaware.org>

### **Child Trends: Parent Engagement in Schools**

Provides research and strategies on how parent engagement in schools support student success.  
<https://www.childtrends.org>

### **Learning Heroes**

Aims at helping parents understand their child's progress in school and offers tools for supporting learning at home. <https://bealearninghero.org>

### **National Center for Families Learning (NCFL)**

Provides resources and programs that empower families to support children's education and literacy development.  
<https://familieslearning.org>

### **Reading Rockets**

Provides resources and strategies to help parents and educators support children's literacy development, including tips for reading aloud and choosing books.  
<https://www.readingrockets.org>

### **Parenting Counts**

Offers resources and tools based on the research of the Talaris Institute to support parents in understanding child development and promoting positive parent-child interactions.  
<https://www.parentingcounts.org>

### **The Parent Toolkit**

A comprehensive resource to help parents track and support their child's development, which includes sections on academics, health, and social emotional skills.

<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/parent-resources>

### **Reach Out and Read:**

A program that promotes early literacy and family engagement in children's reading habits.  
<https://reachoutandread.org/elr-main-page/>

### **ADD NEW INFO HERE**

Add new info here

<https://add> new link here



# CHILD RESOURCES

## Increase Student Success

### **Busy Toddler Learning Activities for Preschoolers**

Provide simple, engaging activities that parents and caregivers can do with Pre-K children to build foundational literacy, numeracy, and fine motor skills.

<https://busytoddler.com/blog/>

### **Child Care Aware**

Offers resources and information for families seeking quality childcare and early education programs.

<https://www.childcareaware.org>

### **The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL)**

Provide resources aimed at supporting children's social and emotional development to enhance school readiness.

<https://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/family.html>

### **Common Sense Media**

Offer reviews and advice on digital literacy, helping parents make informed decisions about technology and learning resources for children.

<https://www.commonsense.org/education>

### **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Early Childhood Resources**

Guidance and resources to support the learning and development of young children with exceptionalities.

<https://exceptionalchildren.org/improving-your-practice/tools-and-resources>

### **HOMER Learning Program**

A personalized early learning program focused on building essential literacy and numeracy skills through interactive stories and lessons for Pre-K children.

<https://learnwithhomer.com>

### **National Geographic Kids Early Learning**

Offers Pre-K children interactive videos, games, and learning activities related to science, animals, and the natural world to foster curiosity and learning.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

### **Pre-K Pages**

A resource hub for educators and families, offering lesson plans, activities, and printable resources designed to help Pre-K children succeed academically and socially.

<https://www.pre-kpages.com>

### **Prodigy**

This math platform helps students practice and improve math skills while parents can track progress.

<https://www.prodigygame.com/main-en/>



## GOAL #3

**To empower families as leaders and advocates, supporting their educational aspirations through every transition from early childhood to the successful completion of their child's secondary education.**

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Research highlights the connection between family focused education—particularly maternal education levels—and positive school readiness.<sup>3</sup> When families work to achieve their own educational goals, they set a powerful example for children about the value of education. Educators play a key role in encouraging families to pursue education, training, and experiences that support their college and career readiness aspirations. Empowered families can drive positive change not only in their child's education but also in other important areas of life.

Educators should also encourage families to take on leadership roles, participate in decision-making, help shape program policies, and engage in community and state initiatives that improve children's learning and development.

When children transition to a new educator or move through the education system, both the family and child face adjustments to new environments, teachers, and learning cultures. These transitions can be challenging for families and educators alike. It's essential for educators to create systems of support that help families navigate these changes. A supportive approach strengthens both families and education systems, ultimately benefiting children and their success.

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<sup>3</sup> Office of Head Start and the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (2011). The Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework: Promoting Family Engagement and School Readiness, from Prenatal to Age 8.



# OUTCOMES

## Build Leadership and Capacity

To empower families as leaders and advocates, supporting their educational aspirations through every transition from early childhood to the successful completion of their child's secondary education."



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equip families with the knowledge and skills needed to embrace leadership and advocacy roles.</li><li>• Offer professional development for school and educational agency staff on effective family engagement strategies.</li><li>• Implement supportive programs that connect with family members at home, in the community, and within schools.</li><li>• Assess and improve efforts using high-quality, evidence-based strategies to ensure effectiveness.</li><li>• Foster strong, personalized relationships with families through mixed and reciprocal communication methods.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share questions, concerns, and recommendations about their child's education with confidence.</li><li>• Express opinions concerning the goals and policies of their child's program.</li><li>• Understand and assert their rights under federal and state laws to support their child's education.</li><li>• Take part in program boards or other decision-making opportunities to shape their child's learning environment.</li><li>• Reach out and engage with other families (e.g., new families) to offer knowledge and support.</li><li>• Volunteer in classrooms and contribute to their child's educational program.</li><li>• Pursue leadership and advocacy opportunities, especially during transitions to new educational settings.</li><li>• Establish personal learning goals that reflect their interests and career aspirations.</li><li>• Enroll in courses, training, or other educational opportunities that help achieve their educational and career goals.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen their self-concept and sense of identity.</li><li>• Increase their intellectual growth and curiosity.</li><li>• Deepen their understanding of the world, people, experiences, and ideas.</li><li>• Enhance their competencies and skills in oral language, literacy, writing, listening, and thinking.</li><li>• Develop competencies and skills in mathematical reasoning and scientific exploration.</li><li>• Build physical coordination and gross and fine motor skills.</li><li>• Cultivate emotional intelligence, and the ability to navigate social situations.</li><li>• Foster self-direction, independence, and confidence.</li><li>• Nurture cooperative, trusting relationships.</li><li>• Encourage natural curiosity and creative potential.</li><li>• Instill a lifelong love of learning.</li></ul>
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# PROGRAM RESOURCES

## Build Leadership and Capacity

### **Building Parent-Teacher Relationships**

An article from the American Federation of Teachers.

[www.readingrockets.org/article/building-parent-teacher-relationships](http://www.readingrockets.org/article/building-parent-teacher-relationships)

### **Building Bright Futures-Leadership in Early Childhood Education**

Provides resources and initiatives to support leadership development in early childhood programs. Focuses on building a strong foundation for young children through effective leadership practices, family engagement, and community collaboration.

<https://buildingbrightfutures.org>

### **Child Care Aware-Leadership Development Toolkit**

A toolkit designed for early childhood program administrators to develop leadership skills and improve program operations. The toolkit includes templates, guides, and strategies used to enhance leadership capacity among staff.

<https://www.childcareaware.org/state/mississippi-5/>

### **Community Schools Playbook**

A resource for programs to adopt the community school model, which emphasizes family engagement, leadership, and capacity building within schools. The playbook offers practical guides for educators and administrators to foster collaborative leadership with families and communities.

<https://communityschools.futureforlearning.org>

### **Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA)**

Provides resources and technical assistance to states and programs on implementing evidence-based practices and policies for young children with disabilities.

<https://ectacenter.org>

### **Engaging Parents and Developing Leaders**

A Self-Assessment and Planning Tool for Nonprofits and Schools by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<https://www.aecf.org/resources/engaging-parents-developing-leaders/>

### **Families as Advocates and Leaders**

The National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (NCPFCE) has created a Research to Practice Series on the Family Engagement in Head Start and its many benefits.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/rtp-advocates-leaders.pdf>

### **Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework**

Framework for early childhood programs to build family engagement, leadership, and capacity. It included tools for professional development, policy creation, and strategic planning in family and community engagement.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/parent-family-community-engagement-pfce-framework>

### **Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) Leadership for Early Childhood Education**

Provides research and resources aimed at enhancing leadership in early childhood education.

<https://iel.org/resources/>

**McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership**

Offers professional development and leadership resources specifically for early childhood program administrators. It provides leadership training, organizational development tools, and resources to help programs build a strong leadership foundation.

<https://mccormickcenter.nl.edu/library/>

**Strengthening Families – Protective Factors Framework**

Provides a research-based approach to enhancing family engagement using protective factors. Guides program leaders on how to build capacity of both staff and families through community-building and leadership initiatives.

<https://strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org/research/study-design-and-outcomes/>



# **FAMILY RESOURCES**

## **Build Leadership and Capacity**

### **Parent-Teacher Home Visits**

A model for building relationships between families and schools by training parents and teachers to conduct home visits together. Focuses on building mutual understanding and leadership roles for parents in their children's educational journey.

<https://pthvp.org>

### **Family Leadership Design Collaborative**

Provides research and tools to develop family leadership in schools and communities, focusing on families from marginalized backgrounds.

<https://familydesigncollab.org>

### **Parenting Counts**

Offers resources and tools based on the research of the Talaris Institute to support parents in understanding child development and promoting positive parent-child interactions.

<https://www.parentingcounts.org>

### **National Family Support Network (NFSN)**

Offers training and resources to strengthen family support and leadership skills.

<https://www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org>

### **Families as Leaders Program by the National Center for Family Learning**

Offers resources for families to foster socio-emotional learning in their children. Provides tips and activities for parents to help their children develop self-awareness, self-management, and relationship skills.

<https://casel.org>

### **The Family Center on Technology and Disability (FCTD)**

Offers resources and tools for families of children with disabilities to promote leadership and advocacy in education.

<https://cpfamilynetwork.org/resources/resources-guide/the-family-center-on-technology-and-disability/>



## GOAL #4

**To foster connections between families, their peers, school personnel, and community partners, providing ongoing support, encouragement, and access to valuable resources.**

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Creating full, equal, and equitable partnerships requires a shared commitment to systemic change in policy, resources, and practice. Families, educators, and community partners all benefit from opportunities to grow and develop their capacity to work together by building trust, strengthening confidence, expanding personal networks, and deepening their core beliefs of family engagement.

Families are their child's first teachers. Educators play a vital role in forming collaborative partnerships with various community service entities to empower families in this essential role. Personal and community networks are a key source of support for families with young children. By learning from each other and sharing experiences, families can discover new resources, caregiving strategies, and sources of comfort. Educators should encourage families to connect with peers and mentors through formal or informal social networks that support social well-being and a sense of community.

Education is a partnership between families, schools, and communities. Together, they make decisions for children's education, contribute to state, district, and school-level committees on academic policies and programs, and build a shared understanding of child and adolescent development. Families, schools, and community members work collaboratively to connect students, families, and staff with expanded learning opportunities and community services.

Through shared decision-making, advocacy, and community engagement, schools, families, and communities share the responsibility of strengthening schools and ensuring student success. By working together, we can create a supportive environment that uplifts all children and fosters a thriving educational community.



## OUTCOMES

### Develop Community Investment and Partnerships

To foster connections between families, their peers, school personnel, and community partners, providing ongoing support, encouragement, and access to valuable resources



- Obtain knowledge and skills to connect families with peers and community resources.
- Develop expertise to guide families in making smooth and effective transitions to kindergarten.
- Collaborate with or provide subgrants to schools. Enabling partnerships with community-based organizations that have a proven track record of enhancing family engagement,

- Share knowledge and resources with other families to build confidence and feel empowered through mutual support.
- Reach out to other families for problem solving and guidance in making informed decisions.
- Identify key community contacts for assistance when questions or needs arise.
- Develop an understanding of their children's behavior and respond effectively.
- Practice positive parenting strategies that align with their children's developmental stages and learning needs.
- Understand how to ensure the health and safety of their children.
- Seek services and support for their child's cognitive, developmental, and behavioral challenges.
- Access community resources as needed to address safety, health, and financial concerns.

- Strengthen their self-concept and sense of identity.
- Increase their intellectual growth and curiosity.
- Deepen their understanding of the world, people, experiences, and ideas.
- Enhance their competencies and skills in oral language, literacy, writing, listening, and thinking.
- Develop competencies and skills in mathematical reasoning and scientific exploration.
- Build physical coordination and gross and fine motor skills.
- Cultivate emotional intelligence, and the ability to navigate social situations.
- Foster self-direction, independence, and confidence.
- Nurture cooperative, trusting relationships.
- Encourage natural curiosity and creative potential.
- Instill a lifelong love of learning.



# PROGRAM RESOURCES

## Develop Community Investment and Partnerships

### **The Afterschool Alliance**

Offers resources for building partnerships with schools, families, and community organizations to support afterschool programming.

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org>

### **American Academy of Pediatrics**

Provides information for optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

<https://www.aap.org>

### **Community School Playbook**

Comprehensive guide to transforming schools into community schools into community hubs with partnerships.

<https://www.communityschools.org>

### **Community Toolbox (University of Kansas)**

A free resource for developing community partnerships and building capacity for schools and community collaboration.

<https://ctb.ku.edu/en/get-started>

### **Epic!**

A digital library offering thousands of books, audiobooks, and learning videos to help children develop strong reading skills.

<https://www.getepic.com>

### **The Edutopia Parent Partnership**

Provides practical ideas and examples of family and community partnerships in education.

<https://www.edutopia.org>

### **Family Doctor**

Provides trusted medical advice and updates from the American Academy of Family Physicians.

<https://familydoctor.org/>

### **Family Engagement Activities**

Family engagement activities developed by the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Early Childhood Education. The three documents contain suggestion at-home activities, videos, books, and conversation starters in the areas of language and science.

[https://mdek12.org/sites/default/files/conversations\\_with\\_children\\_family\\_enrichment\\_extension\\_002.pdf](https://mdek12.org/sites/default/files/conversations_with_children_family_enrichment_extension_002.pdf)

[https://mdek12.org/sites/default/files/physical\\_science.pdf](https://mdek12.org/sites/default/files/physical_science.pdf)

[https://mdek12.org/sites/default/files/earth\\_and\\_space\\_science.pdf](https://mdek12.org/sites/default/files/earth_and_space_science.pdf)

### **Family Engagement Calendar**

An undated calendar developed by the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Early Childhood Education provides age-appropriate conversation starters and activities for young children. Middle school and high school conversation starters are also included to encourage family bonding and conversations with the entire family.

[https://mdek12.org/sites/default/files/family\\_engagement\\_calendar\\_july\\_thru\\_june\\_final.pdf](https://mdek12.org/sites/default/files/family_engagement_calendar_july_thru_june_final.pdf)

### **Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)**

Offers programs and resources on building community schools and fostering partnerships between schools and local organizations.

<https://iel.org/resources/>

### **Learning Policy Institute**

Researches and promotes policies that support school-community partnerships and comprehensive approaches to family engagement.

<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org>

### **National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities**

Provides detailed information on childhood development and health.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/index.html>

### **National Family Support Network (NFSN)**

Helps programs build community partnerships through family resource centers and promote family well-being and school engagement.

<https://www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org>

### **Prevent Child Abuse America**

Provides information for abuse prevention and child protection.

<https://preventchildabuse.org/>

### **Safe Kids Worldwide**

A nonprofit organization working to help families and communities keep kids safe from injuries.

<https://www.safekids.org/>

### **Splash Pages**

Various links from the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Early Childhood Education provide activities that teachers and families can use as an online activity to children in the classroom or those that are learning virtually. They are presented in thematic units.

<https://mdek12.org/earlychildhood/back-to-school-resources/>



# **FAMILY RESOURCES**

## **Develop Community Investment and Partnerships**

### **Action for Healthy Kids**

Provides tools and programs that engage families in creating healthier school and community environments.

<https://www.actionforhealthykids.org>

### **Be A Learning Hero**

Helps parents navigate school engagement and gives them tools to build stronger home-to-school connections.

<https://bealearninghero.org>

### **Great Schools**

Offers parents tools and resources to understand school quality and engage with schools to improve outcomes for all children.

<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/>

### **National Center for Families Learning**

Provides tools and strategies for families to improve literacy and learning at home and strengthened community ties.

<https://familieslearning.org/resources/learning-materials/>

### **PBS KIDS for Parents-Social Skills**

Provides activities, games, and printables that encourage pre-K children to develop social skills and learn about community helpers.

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/>

### **PBS Learning Media for Parents**

Offers interactive activities, videos, and lesson plans for parents to use with children to enhance learning in various subjects.

<https://mpb.pbslearningmedia.org>

### **Reading is Fundamental-Family Literacy**

Provides tools for parents to engage their pre-K children in reading and learning about the world and their community through books.

<https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/families>

### **Ready4K**

A parent engagement curriculum that helps families foster school-community connections.

<https://parentpowered.com/kindergarten-readiness/>

### **Sesame Street in Communities**

Offers family resources, activities, and tips to help parents teach young children about empathy, cooperation, and community roles.

<https://sesameworkshop.org/resources/>



# Family Engagement Self-Assessment

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Effective family engagement practices have a lasting impact on children, families, administrators, educators, and communities, shaping outcomes generations. Family engagement is a vital, on-going component of systems that recognize and build on the strengths, needs, and well-being of families to support the academic success of children. Family engagement is not an isolated practice, but part of a broader continuum of growth that spans from birth through adulthood.

This self-assessment serves as a guidance tool to help learning communities evaluate their current family engagement practices in place in your learning community. Its purpose is to help learning communities identify specific strategies to engage families and create a foundational level understanding of family engagement. This will aid in sustaining focus and intentional efforts of family engagement to reach programmatic outcomes for children and families. As you complete the self-assessment, use it to identify your strengths and identify areas of growth and development that need more direct attention. The data you gather through this process will assist learning communities in strategic planning and continuous quality implementation practices to impact student success.

## Instructions for Completing the Family Engagement Assessment Table

### 1. Review Each Statement Carefully:

Read each item in the table under the respective goals (Family Engagement, Student Success, Leadership & Capacity Building, and Community Investment & Partnerships).

### 2. Assess the Program's Current Status:

Use the four status levels to evaluate the program's implementation of each practice:

- NA (Not Applicable): This practice does not apply to the program.
- Emerging: The program has begun implementing this practice but is in the early stages.
- Progressing: The practice is consistently applied, but further refinement or expansion is needed.
- Mastery: The practice is fully embedded and effectively supports family engagement.

### 3. Mark the Appropriate Status:

Place a checkmark (✓) in the box that best reflects the program's current level of implementation for each statement.

### 4. Use the "Action Steps" and "Measures of Success" Sections (if applicable):

- In structured evaluation settings, staff should outline specific actions needed to advance practices rated as "Emerging" or "Progressing."
- Establish measurable indicators and a timeline to track progress toward achieving "Mastery."

# Utilizing the Data from the Completed Table

1. Identify Strengths and Areas for Improvement:
  - Practices marked as "Mastery" indicate strengths that can be maintained and shared as best practices.
  - Items marked "Emerging" or "Progressing" highlight areas needing further development, training, or resource allocation.
2. Develop Action Plans:
  - Use the assessment results to create targeted strategies for enhancing family engagement.
  - Assign responsibilities to staff and establish goals for moving practices toward "Mastery."
3. Enhance Professional Development:
  - Identify training needs for staff to improve areas rated as "Emerging" or "Progressing."
  - Provide coaching, workshops, or peer mentoring to strengthen family engagement efforts.
4. Strengthen Communication and Collaboration:
  - Share findings with leadership, staff, and families to promote transparency and collective improvement.
  - Engage families in discussions on how to enhance engagement strategies.
5. Measure Progress Over Time:
  - Reassess periodically to track improvements and adjust strategies as needed.
  - Use the data for reporting, accreditation, or compliance with family engagement guidelines.
6. Support Grant Applications and Funding Requests:
  - Use the assessment results to demonstrate program needs and successes when applying for funding or community support.

## GOAL I: Welcome and Empower ALL Families

	Status	Action Steps and Person(s) Responsible	Measure of Success and Time Frame(s)
Our team creates a welcoming and easily navigable environment that encourages families to visit, participate, and volunteer in diverse activities while sharing cultural and traditional insights.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
Our team provides families with resources to support a safe, healthy, and stable environment where children can thrive.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
At the start of each year, staff members engage families through various formal and informal methods to learn about their structure, culture, traditions, and child-rearing preferences. This information is actively used to shape the program's environment, curriculum, and teaching methods.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		

<p>A structured system is in place for regular, two-way communication with families about children's activities, caregiving, and developmental milestones, ensuring a smooth transition between home and school.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
<p>Our team intentionally facilitates pick-up and drop-off interactions, regularly update families on children's learning, accomplishments, and concerns, and foster strong family-program connections.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		

## GOAL 2: Student Success

	Status	Action Steps and Person(s) Responsible	Measure of Success and Time Frame(s)
Our team creates opportunities for families to build meaningful relationships that support children's learning at home and in the classroom.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
Families are empowered to observe, guide, and participate in their child's daily learning experiences at home, school, and in the community.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
Staff encourage families to pursue their own educational and career development through training and other learning experiences.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
Families receive guidance on supporting and advocating for their child's learning as they transition across different educational stages from birth through 12th grade.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		

<p>Our team uses various communication methods—including handbooks, conferences, home visits, newsletters, and family meetings—to share program philosophy, curriculum goals, and effective learning strategies.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
<p>Our team provides whole-child development information using diverse formats to accommodate different learning styles and cultural backgrounds, including written materials, verbal discussions, and informational events.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
<p>Family feedback is integrated into plans addressing child assessments and concerns. If behavioral challenges arise, our team collaborates with families to develop and implement individualized support plans, providing regular updates.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
<p>Families receive support in navigating health, mental health, assessment, and educational services for their children.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		

## GOAL 3: Leadership/Building Capacity

	Status	Action Steps and Person(s) Responsible	Measure of Success and Time Frame(s)
Our team collaborates with families to engage in leadership roles, decision-making, and policy development, as well as participate in community and state initiatives to improve children's learning experiences.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
Families are given opportunities to serve as leaders and decision-makers through focus groups and family meetings.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
Our program has an advisory group that includes active family participation.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
A family engagement assessment tool is used to evaluate, improve, and develop innovative engagement strategies.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		

## GOAL 4: Community Investment and Partnerships

	Status	Action Steps and Person(s) Responsible	Measure of Success and Time Frame(s)
Our team encourages families to connect with peers and mentors through social networks that enhance well-being and community engagement.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
Our team establishes partnerships with local agencies and organizations to expand resources to better serve children and families.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
Families receive regular updates on available community support services and assistance in accessing these resources.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		
Our team actively coordinates with State and Local Educational Agencies, Head Start programs, and other early education initiatives to comply with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and improve service delivery.	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Progressing <input type="checkbox"/> Mastery		

# Family Engagement Framework Resources

Resources used to develop this framework and toolkit include the following:

- **Christenson, S.L. (2000). Families and schools: Rights, responsibilities, resources, and relationships.** In R.C. Pianta & M.J. Cox (Eds.), *The transition to kindergarten* (pp.143–177). Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co. and McWayne, C., Hampton, V., Fantuzzo, J., Cohen, H.L., & Sekino, Y. (2004). A multivariate examination of parent involvement and the social and academic competencies of urban kindergarten children. *Psychology in the Schools*, 41(3), 363–377.
- **Implementing Effective Programs, Engagement Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships.** Joyce L. Epstein, Ph.D., Director of Family and Community for Student Success in School, Family, and Community Partnerships
- **Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines for classrooms serving Three- and Four-Year Old Children**  
<https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/documents/OAE/OEER/Early%20Childhood/Early%20Childhood%20Early%20Learning%20Guidelines%203's%20%204's%202018%20FINAL%20with%20no%20mark-ups.pdf>.
- **Maryland's PreK – 12 Family Engagement Framework: A Shared Responsibility**  
<http://marylandpublicschools.org/parents/Documents/MDPreK12FamilyEngagementFramework2016.pdf>
- **Harvard Family Research Project**  
<https://globalfrp.org/>
- **South Carolina ABC Quality: Early Childhood Family Engagement Framework and Toolkit**  
<http://scchildcare.org/media/57088/SC-ABCQ-Family-Engagement-Toolkit-12212017-v2.pdf>
- **Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework, Center for the Study of Social Policy**  
[www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies](http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies)
- **Full, Equal and Equitable Partnerships with Families: Connecticut's Definition and Framework for Family Engagement**  
<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Publications/Full-Equal-and-Equitable-Partnerships-with-Families>