

Family Engagement Competencies & Evidence

What participants will know and be able to do:

- Summarize the research on the impact of family engagement on children's literacy development and its benefits. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of partnerships.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the impact assumptions made about diversity can have on family engagement, staff behaviors, and student performance.
- Articulate the role that teachers can play in impacting children's and parents' self-efficacy beliefs about themselves as readers and learners.
- Explore different practices of effective family engagement (including family literacy). Identify potential practices that could be effective for participant's school/district.
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and devise action steps to increase family engagement from a sample Literacy Needs Assessment and other tools.
- Create three action steps for incorporating and/or strengthening family engagement efforts for participant's integrated school/district literacy plan.

Evidence of learning:

- Develop a summary of the research that describes the multiple benefits of family engagement.
- Complete the checklist "How well is your school bridging racial, class, and cultural differences?". Write a reflection on, "In which areas are you doing well and how do you know?".
- Submit a list of self-efficacy and educational achievements. List specific strategies to support family beliefs about their self-efficacy.
- List and describe at least four practices that could be implemented in the participant's school/district. Explain why they may work and are achievable.
- Document action steps to address ways to improve family engagement.
- List, describe and justify action steps to improve family engagement for specific school/district. The justification should include need and have the potential to be implemented.

Family Engagement and KtO

The Keystones to Opportunity Grant provides structure for districts to identify needs that are affecting student learning, using Bernhardt's Multiple Measures of Data, and to build a literacy plan that will provide consistency to ensure student success.

Family engagement plays a powerful role in children's literacy development and benefits schools, families, and the community. Districts can encourage family engagement by supporting self-efficacy and implementing appropriate models of family engagement that enhance their comprehensive literacy plan.

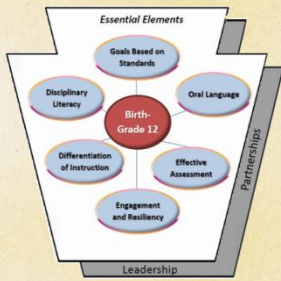
- When parents/families are involved, students have
 - higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates;
 - increased motivation and better self-esteem;
 - lower rates of suspension, better attendance;
 - enrollment in more challenging courses;
 - better social skills and adaptation to school;
 - decreased use of drug and alcohol;
 - fewer instances of violent behavior.
- Family engagement in education is twice as predictive of student success as socioeconomic status.

Michigan Department of Education, 2002; Henderson & Mapp, 2002



Family Engagement Connections

"My vision for family engagement is ambitious...I want to have too many parents demanding excellence in their schools. I want all parents to be real partners in education with their children's teachers, from cradle to career. In this partnership, students and parents should feel connected—and teachers should feel supported...when parents demand change and better options for their children, they become the real accountability backstop for the educational system." (Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, May 3, 2010).



The Pennsylvania Comprehensive Literacy Plan

- Literacy development is a critical foundation for all learning and serves as a keystone for opportunity and success. (Guiding Principle 1)
- Oral language is the foundation for literacy development. Speaking and listening are tools of communication that become the basis for the written word. (Essential Element 2)
- Evidence-based decision making must be at the heart of all instructional decisions related to literacy development. (Guiding Principle 4)
- Fostering engagement and academic resiliency are keys to developing literate students. (Essential Element 4)

PA Common Core and Family Engagement

Keystones to Opportunity:

**Pennsylvania's Vision for
Sustainable Growth in Reading
Achievement**

When parents/families know what is expected of all their children, they become partners in learning. This knowledge influences

- parents'/families' beliefs about what is important, necessary, and permissible for them to do with and on behalf of their children;
- the extent to which parents/families believe that they can have a positive influence on their children's education;
- parents'/families' perceptions that their children and the school want them to be involved.



Family Engagement and Family Literacy

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