

8 Ways to Keep Families Engaged!

As defined by the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement ([NAFSCE](#)), family engagement is a **shared responsibility** in which schools and other community agencies and other organizations are committed to reaching out to engage families in **meaningful** ways and in which families are committed to actively supporting their children's learning development. Family engagement is **continuous** across a child's life and cuts across and reinforces learning in multiple settings where children learn.

Parent Networks

Connecting families is a valuable strategy to leverage existing assets. You can also use **cultural brokers** or parent leaders to help promote engagement across your school by having them advocate for attendance at school events or other school initiatives. Cultural brokers can help to communicate Summer events and information for when returning back to school.



Protective Factors

Empowering families by providing the opportunity for them to build their **protective factors** is one way to let families know they are being heard while simultaneously supporting positive student behavior. Use pulse checks and informal surveys to ask families what skills or information they need. Plan in-person events with family feedback in mind.



At-Home Learning

The USBE works to identify or share resources and supports that can help with at-home learning. One state-funded support includes the **Science of Reading, Community Engagement** project. LEAs receive training and coaching to host in-person events and build literacy-related family skills successfully. Check the **USBE Family and Community Engagement page** for more projects and ideas.



Accessible Information

When sharing information with families, the information must be accessible to all members of the community. Information shared must be written at a **3rd-grade level** to ensure the content is understandable. Information should also be shared on multiple platforms including social media, web pages, and in-person events. Additionally, having information available through audio and visual methods is important for families with different linguistic or cognitive needs.



Out of School Time Alignment

Community partners can function as strong reinforcers for learning. Aligning and collaborating with your OST providers can strengthen family relationships as you share goals, policies, and strategies with OST professionals. Community partners can help meet the needs of families when LEAs are unable to.



Students with Disabilities

Transition happens at many points in a student's life. Preschool to kindergarten, elementary to secondary school, and postsecondary transition are highlighted across the PK-12 setting. Summer is an opportune time to engage and leverage family engagement as a tool for success in the upcoming school year. Meeting with families helps to provide tools, set goals, and promote summer learning as well as upcoming expectations.



Data to Inform & Improve

Use existing data and efforts to improve school-wide goals. The USBE can utilize West Ed's **Comprehensive Assessment of Leadership for Learning (CALL) survey** as one practice to help inform systemic improvement to improve family engagement through the Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement.



Relational Trust

Family and Community Engagement requires high-quality interactions consistently. **Home Visits** can function as the first contact to a lifelong positive relationship between schools and families. **Check and Connect** and the **Trust Based Relationship Intervention (TBRI) model** are two strategies to build relational trust.



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