

Focus on Learning

Connect to all families' interests, identities, and home lives to provide meaningful experiences that support student learning outcomes. All families need an accurate picture of their children's learning. Follow the continuous improvement journey to begin your work.

PLAN

Family engagement is not a program, activity, or event. The Oklahoma Family Engagement Framework establishes it as a shared responsibility among families, schools, and communities to build relationships that support a child's learning and growth from birth through college and career. With this pathway identified as a priority through your planning process, your next step will be to guide your team through the Do and Review steps.

DO

- Describe how you will create opportunities for all families to take an active role in learning.
- How will you respond to student and family questions or concerns about learning? How will you celebrate and validate the contributions of families?
- What opportunities will you give students to share how they want teachers and families to continue to support their learning?
- How will family skills and knowledge be used to support student learning?
- How will activities with families support and align with district goals for student learning?
- How will you build learning opportunities that are meaningful and relevant to students and families, and that include different cultures, traditions, and learning needs?
- How will you connect families and students to their peers to create interactive, collaborative learning communities or to provide continuous support, encouragement, and resources?
- How will you leverage existing American Indian education services within your district to develop professional and educational learning content to support family engagement?
- What resources and tools will your team need to be successful to focus on learning?

REVIEW

- What happened when you implemented your plan?
- Is there evidence or data to show improvement or impact?
- What should you start, stop, or continue to do?
- What are your next steps? Who needs to be engaged? What resources do you need to ensure success?

Know the Facts

Families Deserve an Accurate Picture

PERCEPTION



Parents reporting their children are **at/above grade level** in reading and math

REALITY



Children that are **at/above grade level** in reading and math (2019 NAEP)

LEARNING HEROES: Parents 2020

Pathway in Action

In *Beyond the Bake Sale*, the focus of an entire chapter (5: Linking to Learning) is dedicated to helping families support their children's learning, both at home and at school. The authors provide examples of how almost any school activity, such as family fun nights, heritage festivals, winter concerts, ice cream socials and more, can include a link to learning. A key takeaway about activities is that **all** activities can take place in the community as well as in the school. Go where your families hang out: community centers, supermarkets, churches, parks, etc. The authors also provide ideas for going a little deeper with opportunities such as classroom visits, class meetings, family volunteers in the classroom, student portfolios, full-circle conversations, and family learning activities. A checklist is provided to help you identify how closely your school's family engagement is linked to student learning. The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships provides significant research that supports activities linked to learning.

Resources

The authors of these books are leaders in the field of family, school, and community partnerships. They provide real-world examples, tools, and resources.

- *Powerful Partnerships: A Teacher's Guide to Engaging Families for Student Success* (Mapp et al., 2017)
- *Engage Every Family: Five Simple Principles, Second Edition* (Constantino, 2021)
- *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action, Third Edition* (Epstein et al., 2009)
- *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships* (Henderson et al., 2007)

Based on existing research and best practices, the *Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships* Version 2 (www.dualcapacity.org) is designed to support the development of family engagement strategies, policies, and programs (Mapp, K.L. & Bergman, E., 2019).

Going Forward

- Set a regular time for your team to work together.
- Introduce your team to resources specific to this pathway.
- Explore the pathway and what it looks like in your organization.