

Family Engagement Resources for Educators



"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."

~ H.E. Luccock ~

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Associations, Websites & Newsletters

- Learning For Justice- <https://www.learningforjustice.org/> (formerly Teaching Tolerance)
- Americas Promise.org- <https://www.americaspromise.org/search?search=family%20engagement>
- Youth.gov- <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/system-level-engaging-families-partners-system-improvement>
- Global Family Research Project- <https://globalfrp.org/>
- Headstart, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center- <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement>
- Families in Schools- <https://www.familiesinschools.org/>

On-line Professional Development Courses & Tools

- Harvard- <https://online-learning.harvard.edu/course/introduction-family-engagement-education?delta=2> (self-paced course-six weeks)
- The Iris Center - <https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/fam/> (self-paced module)
- Reading Rockets- <https://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents/engagement> (Five-part webinar)
- Dual Capacity-Building Framework | SEDL-<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/family-community/partners-education.pdf>
The Dual Capacity-Building Framework helps schools, districts and states to develop a comprehensive family engagement strategy that includes building the capacity of both school personnel and families to partner with one another to promote student success.

Books & Articles

- Powerful Partnerships: A Teacher's Guide to Engaging Families for Student Success**, Karen Mapp, Ilene Carver, Jessica Lander, Scholastic, 2017
Educators explore how to create the respectful, trusting relationships with families necessary to build the educational partnerships that best support children's learning. The book will cover the mindset and core beliefs required to bond with families, and will provide guidance on how to plan engagement opportunities and events throughout the school year that undergird effective partnerships between families and schools.
- Engage Every Family, Five Simple Principals**, 2nd edition, Steve Constantino, Corwin Press, 2020
This updated text includes reflections about implicit bias, equitable learning outcomes, and the role that family engagement plays in student success. It takes a deeper look into the idea of family efficacy, or empowering families to work alongside teachers for improved learning. It also explores the idea of developing relationships and how trust is centrifugal to that process.

[School, Family and Community Partnerships, 4th edition](#), Joyce L Epstein and Associates, Corwin Press, 2018

Focuses on schools, families, and communities collaborating and sharing responsibility for students' education and success in school. This practical and user-friendly text is based on 30 years of research and fieldwork and the fourth edition provides additional and updated tools and guidelines to use to develop more effective and equitable programs of family and community engagement. Written by a team of well-known experts, this foundational text demonstrates a proven approach to implement and sustain inclusive, goal-oriented programs.

[Just Schools: Building Equitable Collaborations with Families and Communities](#), Anna M. Ishimaru, Teachers College Press, Columbia University, 2019

This book goes to the next level in family engagement and examines transforming educational systems by using equitable collaborative practices to engage traditionally under-represented and non-dominant families. Based on empirical research and inquiry-driven practice, this book provides practical examples of positive effective practices for improving student learning, transforming educational systems, and developing strong partnerships that are culturally relevant and respectful.

[The Essential Conversation, What Parents and Teachers can Learn from Each Other](#), Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, Random House LLC, 2003

This is an insightful book about the dialogue that occurs between teachers and parents of students and the importance of the messages that are sent and received. The author draws from personal experience and uses vivid descriptions and antidotes to illustrate her important message about building collaborative partnerships to support students. This text focuses on the why of family engagement and encourages great reflection.

For A Deeper Dive in the Research

Henderson, Anne T., and Karen L. Mapp.- [A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement](#), Austin, TX: National Center for Family & Community Connections with Schools, 2002.

The Question of Class – Dr. Paul Gorski- <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/spring-2007/the-question-of-class>

What Works Brief #9: Family Engagement

How can schools get families involved in their children's education to achieve academic success? This What Works Brief, cowritten by WestEd's Maria Paredes and Meagan O'Malley, provides research-based strategies for thoughtful planning, mentoring, encouraging open communication, modeling high expectations, and much more.



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U.S. Office of Special Education Programs The contents of this document were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education, # H323A170031. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Sarah Allen.