Nyack Public Schools Family Engagement Plan



Building Bridges for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world with Equity, Innovation & Optimism

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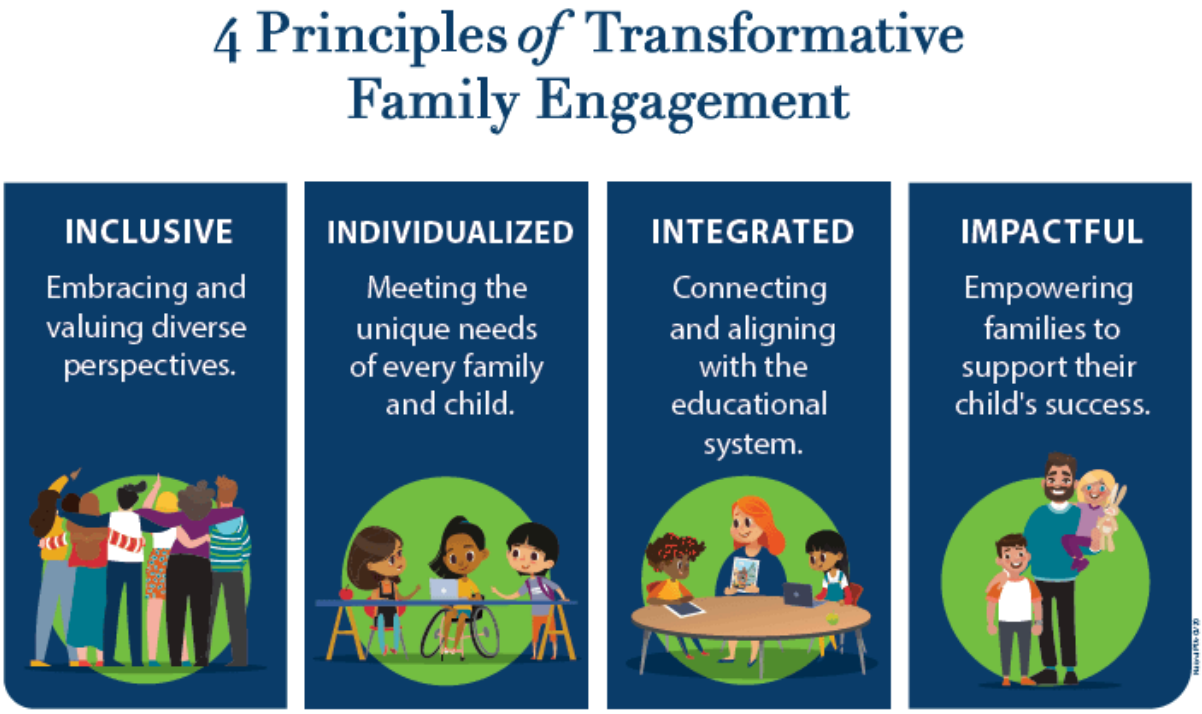
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Role	Family Engagement Plan Committee Team Members
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Family Resource Coordinator Nyack High School	Jessica Hinojosa
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Vision Statement for Family Engagement

Our vision for Family Engagement in the Nyack Public Schools is to foster trust and meaningful two-way partnerships among families, educators, and the community, where every voice is valued and families feel a sense of belonging. In Nyack Public Schools, every family is welcomed and empowered to support their child's success and to be part of the decision-making process.



Current Activities in Practice

Activity	How does this contribute to Building Trusting Relationships & Belonging	How does this connect to Student Learning?	Are there any improvement Suggestions?	Month
Parent Night (Back to School Night)	Parents learn student expectations for learning and learn about the curriculum.	Parents can reinforce expectations and learning at home.	Consider additional nights for parents of ELLs at the MS and HS	September
Play Groups	Parents learn how to interact with their children and network with other parents	Engaging in play incorporates essential skills for learning- cooperation, team work, socialization	Connect with Nyack Basics and expand to all three elementary schools Consider having HS students facilitate these groups	May
Parent Teacher Conferences	Parents receive updates on their children's progress including strengths and areas of concern	Knowing strengths and areas of concern can further support at home reinforcement of skills at home	Do parents know that they can request an in-person meeting?	December
NPS Health Fair	Parents learn about community services that support them and their children	Supports students in overall well being which directly impacts attendance and learning readiness in school	New initiative Consider Early Spring	January

Parent Child+	**Parents learn how to support early literacy skills for children 18 months - 4 years old**	**Students are supported with early literacy skills**	**This year, program is expanded beyond Spanish-speaking families** **Flagging students who have participated in the program** **Alignment to Basics**	**October, April**
Nyack Basics	**Parent workshops provided to learn about the 5 BASIC principles families can use to support development in the first few years of life**	**Students will come to school more ready to learn with foundational pre-reading skills**	**Program is being relaunched this year** **Community Baby Shower in March 2026** **Play Groups April 2026**	**Year Long**
Parent University	**Parents learn about specific curriculum and instructional approaches more in depth by attending specific workshops**	**Parents can support their children's learning and reinforce specific programs at home which will increase student learning**	**NA- this will be the first time PU is held** **Fall launch - October**	**October**
ELL Night	**Parents of English Language Learners (ELLs)**	**ELLs receive their mandated language support, and**	**Consider providing child care**	**October - HS**

	learn about the ENL and bilingual programs	parents are aware of the supports		
Red Hawk Ready Fest!	District families come together just before the start of the school year to connect with community resources, district and school staff, and one another, creating an afternoon of joy and connection to kick off the year.	Students and families are energized for the school year and also get an opportunity to obtain materials they need for school such as backpacks, school supplies, ongoing connection to community responses and district connections for ongoing support.	Continue annual event	August
Grade level/Building Transition Nights (8th grade orientation, 6 to 7 transition night, 7 to 8 grade transition night, 11 grade night, 12 grade night)	Parents learn about the shift in academics and logistics involved in moving from one building to another as grade levels change.	Students can feel more at ease and prepared when beginning a new school.	Consider UPK - K transition night	12 th grade - sept 11 grade - Feb. 8th grade - january 6 to 7 transition - april 7 to 8 grade transition - april
AVID Night - (Advancement via Individual Determination)	HS parents learn more about the AVID program and how it benefits students	Students benefit from academic and social strategies for college readiness	Revamped it this year, was a night previously.	Night scheduled the same night as 8th grade orientation. Invite only.

Multicultural Nights	**Cultures represented at the schools are celebrated via music, food, performances, etc.**	**Families and students learn about and experience one anothers' cultures**	**Develop a night at the middle school**	**March**
Pre-K orientation	**Parents of students entering school for the first time learn about how their children will be engaged in learning and supported in all areas of development**	**Student learning is reinforced at home and students are prepared as they enter schools for the first time**	**Currently the day before school starts; consider sooner**	**September**
UPK Screening (Rockland BOCES) **Process** **Emergent Multilingual Learners Language Profile for PreK Students**	**Parents bring their preschool children enrolled in UPK into the district for screening**	**Screening is an integral part of determining academic readiness**		**May**
K Orientation	**Parents of students entering K for the first time learn about how their children will be engaged in learning and supported in all**	**Student learning is reinforced at home and students are prepared as they enter K for the first time**	**Is this offered at the right time for all considerations?**	**September**

	areas of development			
Narcan training	Parents are treated as partners and provided with training to respond effectively to an overdose emergency, if needed	Parents can help keep their children healthy and effectively intervene, if needed	Multilingually accessible sessions, perhaps via translations devices or personnel	May
Know Your Rights sessions	Students and parents learn more about immigration rights and navigating the immigrations system, while also learning about to respond to interactions with ICE	Parents and students learn how to advocate for themselves, if needed, and navigate the immigration system in an informed way	Parent session to be hosted by community partner Include session for MS Arrange for translation support, especially in Haitian-Creole	November (Parent) March (Student)
Cybersecurity sessions	Parents learn about cyber security and how parents can promote safety and awareness online.	Students are supported with being safe online.	Consider expanding across other district buildings	ongoing
College Fairs (2)	Students and parents are invited to a college fair at the high school to expose all students	Students learn about different postsecondary options (2-year, 4-year, technical programs, military pathways) and	N/A	Senior college fair - sept Junior college fair - february

	to the possibility of college.	**begin to understand how their interests and strengths connect to future opportunities.**		
Career Fair K-5 **Career Day assemblies 6-8**	**Designed for students** **Parents present on their careers**	**Students learn about a variety of careers, industries, and pathways, expanding their understanding of options beyond what they see in their immediate environment.**	**Move Liberty's career fair into a larger area than last year.** **FInd ways to have the middle school more engaged in the career assemblies at MS.**	**March** **Consider HS opportunity - goal for 2027 - 2028**
RedHawk Food Drive	**Staff, students and families donate food items to support district families in need**	**Students basic needs around food are met, which makes their brain more available for learning**	**Working to transition into an ongoing school-based community pantry**	**Year long**
Personal Finance Night (Game of Life) - Hosted by Elementary school counselors	**5th graders will learn personal finance through the game of life (housing, transportation, college or career, Banking, budget)**	**Connects to the portrait of a graduate - students need to be exposed to personal finance**	**First year implementing this program.**	May 12, 2026 Tuesday TIME : 6 pm - 8PM Location: Middle school Gym
Visual and Performing Arts	**Student concerts** **Gallery exhibits at Hilltop by grade level 1 x monthly**	**Arts enhance learning & standards based**	**N/A**	**Year long**

	Superduper Art Show (April)			
Wellness & Athletics	**Sports Competitions ELL Sports Registration Night**	**Physical activity and wellness enhance learning & standards based**	**N/A**	**Year long**
HS Science Research Symposium	**Students present research projects to families Sessions in classrooms**	**Ties directly to next Gen Learning Standards & Portrait of a Graduate**	**N/A**	**May**
World Cafe	**Organized and structured feedback on various topics for family voice**	**Parent feedback on learning enhances home & school connection**	**Held as needed**	**Spring**

Future Goals:

Objectives (What do families and educators across the district need to know and be able to do?)	Activities (What activities will accomplish these objectives?)	Progress Indicators (How will we know if the activities are happening and how effective they are?)
Middle School Multicultural Night	• Principal is on board • Select date/time of year • Visit other schools holding them	• By June 2027
Enhance the UPK screening session	• Tables with info- Nyack Basics- • Public Library information • FRC info • nurse??	By May 2027
Districtwide coordination for language translation at events	• Creation of a Protocol based on meetings, events, • Form for requesting translation	By December 2026

Begin scheduled sessions for Nyack Basics	• **Nyack Library on site** • **Valley Cottage Library** • **Data base**	**By September 2026**
Parent University (2nd. Annual)	• **Date** • **Topics** • **No preselection of dates** • **Explanation of concept** • **Wordly for translation**	**October 2026**
Family Welcome Center	• **Centralized location for families, especially newly registered, to receive immediate support including access to essentials, health insurance registration, etc.** • **Location for community partners to schedule time to support families** • **Location for family workshops**	**September 2026**

Districtwide Family Events	• **3-4 events for the year (i.e. Redhawk ReadyFest, Health Fair)**	**June 2027**
Building Level Family Events/Workshops	• **1-2 per building/year**	**June 2027**

Evaluation Part A: Did we do what we planned?

Activity	Yes	Partially	No	Notes

Evaluation Part B: How well did the activities accomplish the objectives?

Objective	Evidence	Very well	Somewhat	Not well

Title I School Parent and Family Engagement

This plan serves as the school-parent compact.. The compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share in the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and the parents will build and develop partnerships to help children achieve the state's high standards.

Title I Family Engagement Plan (Aligned to District Context)

District Context and Need

The Nyack Union Free School District serves approximately 2,800 students in a diverse community, with a student population that is approximately 38% White, 33% Hispanic/Latinx, 15% Black/African American, 6% Asian, and 8% multiracial. The district also serves a significant number of English Language Learners and students with disabilities, as well as families experiencing economic hardship.

Given this diversity, the district recognizes that equitable family engagement must be culturally responsive, multilingual, and accessible across multiple platforms and formats.

Use of Title I Funds to Support Family Engagement

In alignment with the Every Student Succeeds Act and guidance from the New York State Education Department, the district will allocate Title I funds to build the capacity of families to support student success.

Funds will support:

- **Multilingual communication and translation services (Spanish and other needed languages)**
- **Family workshops focused on literacy, math, and digital learning tools**
- **Technology access support, including training on district platforms**
- **Family engagement events connected to existing programs (e.g., afterschool and extended learning initiatives)**
- **Materials and resources for home-based learning**

Alignment to Existing District Programs

Family engagement efforts will be intentionally aligned with current district initiatives to ensure coherence and impact:

- **Extended Learning Programs**
  Families will receive regular communication about student participation and progress, along with workshops to help reinforce skills at home.
- **School Climate and Culture Initiatives:**
  Family feedback from climate surveys will inform engagement strategies, ensuring that families feel welcomed, respected, and included in decision-making.
- **Parent Universities**

Required Title I Family Engagement Components

1. Annual Title I Meeting

Each Title I school will host an annual meeting (with virtual and in-person options) to:

- **Explain Title I programming and funding**
- **Review curriculum, assessments, and expectations**
- **Provide families with opportunities to ask questions and give input**

Translation services and flexible scheduling will be provided to maximize participation.

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2. Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The district will jointly develop and annually review its Family Engagement Policy with parent input through:

- **Surveys**
- **Focus groups**
- **Parent advisory committees**

The policy will be distributed in family-friendly language and translated as needed.

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3. Building Family Capacity

To address identified needs within the district, the following will be prioritized:

- **Workshops on supporting literacy and math at home**
- **Sessions on social-emotional learning and student well-being**
- **Guidance for navigating school systems and academic expectations**

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4. Communication Systems

Recognizing varying family preferences and access levels, the district will use multiple communication methods:

- **Phone calls, texts, and email**
- **District apps and online platforms**
- **Printed materials sent home**
- **In-person and virtual meetings**

All communication will be clear, consistent, and available in home languages.

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6. Accessibility and Equity

To ensure inclusive participation, the district will:

- **Provide translation and interpretation services**
- **Offer childcare during events when possible**
- **Schedule events at varied times (day/evening/virtual)**
- **Provide transportation support when feasible**
- **Ensure materials are accessible to families with disabilities**

Family Voice and Shared Decision-Making

Families will play an active role in shaping Title I programming through:

- **Annual surveys and feedback tools**
- **Participation in planning committees**
- **Input on the use of the required 1% family engagement set-aside funds**
- **Ongoing dialogue during school and district events**

Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

The district will implement a continuous improvement cycle by:

- **Collecting and analyzing participation data and feedback**
- **Monitoring engagement across demographic groups to ensure equity**
- **Adjusting programming based on family input and student outcomes**
- **Sharing results and next steps with the community**

Commitment Statement

> **The Nyack Union Free School District is committed to fostering authentic partnerships with families through meaningful engagement opportunities that reflect the diversity, strengths, and needs of its community. Through the strategic use of Title I funds, the district ensures that families are empowered as essential partners in supporting student achievement and well-being.**