MiFamily
Engagement Centers

Family Engagement Centers Toolkit

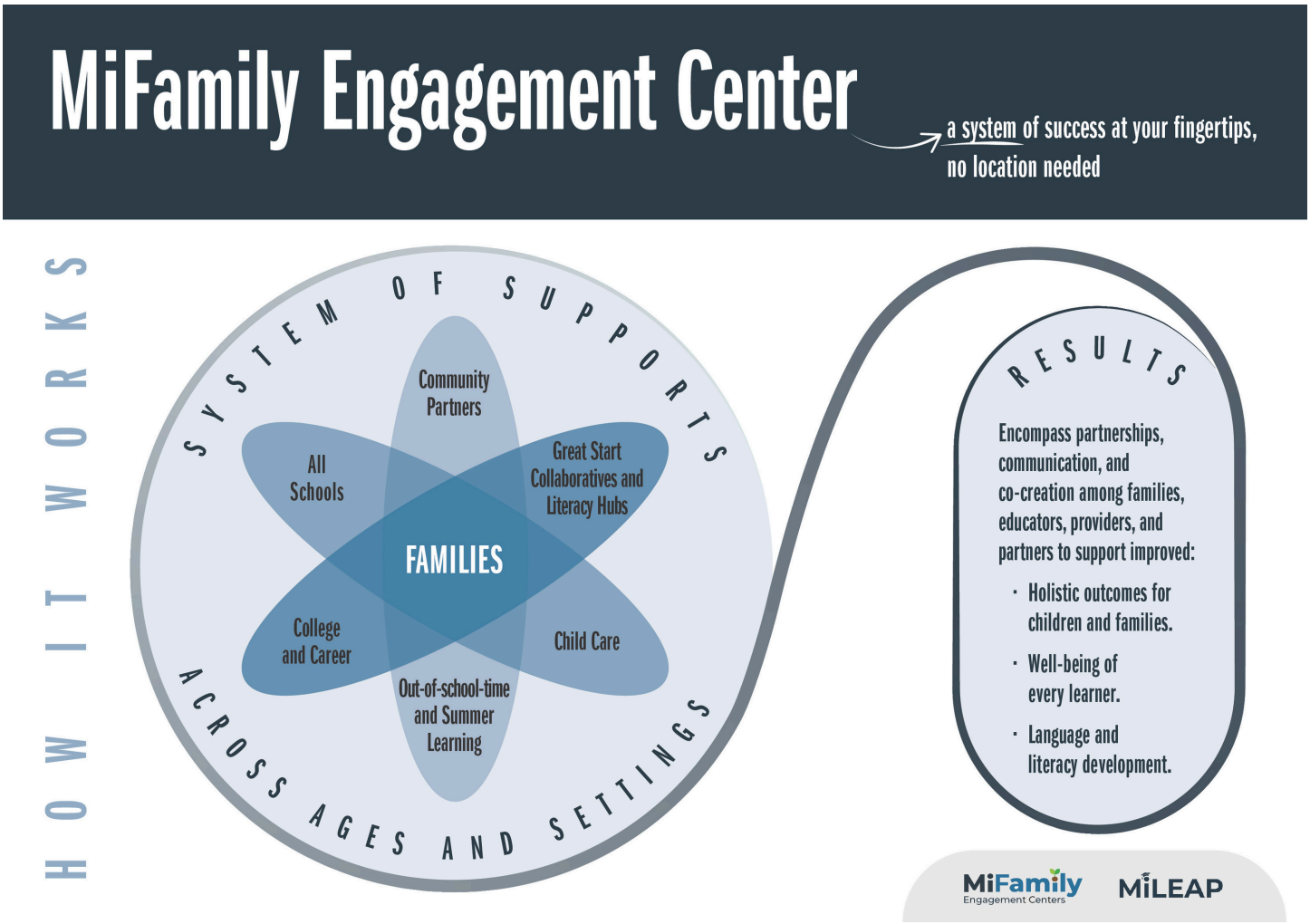


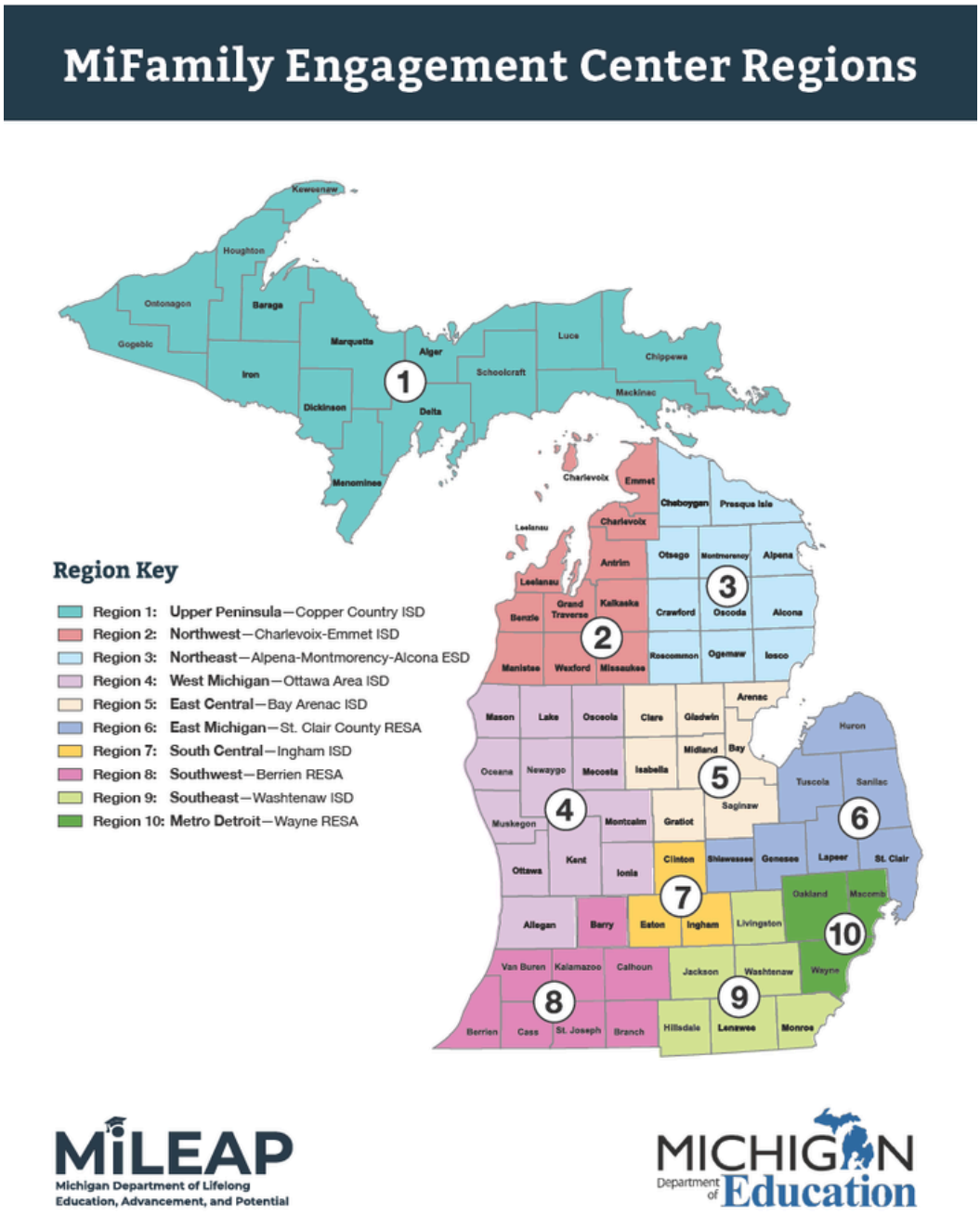
Introduction

MiFamily Engagement Centers are legislatively initiated and grant supported through the 35i grant to develop a system of support for educators/providers working with families (not a physical space). The MiFamily Engagement Centers may provide, but are not limited to:

- training
- coaching
- technical assistance
- resource development
- online training modules

They will also continue the work of Literacy Support Network Hubs for Birth-5th grade.





Michigan's Family Engagement Framework

Michigan's Family Engagement Framework has been considered as Region 8 has forged forward in this work. It is essential for partners to review the Michigan's Family Engagement Framework document before implementing family engagement strategies.

Region 8 Family Engagement Partnership

The Region 8 MiFamily Engagement Center partners with schools and community organizations to improve student outcomes through meaningful family engagement. Family engagement professional development and technical assistance are available throughout the region. Prenatal to Grade 5 literacy support is offered to childcare providers and schools, and select schools can partner with us to implement proven family engagement strategies. We recognize that partners have varying needs and contexts, and we're committed to providing responsive support across the region.

A school who is ready to implement a data-proven strategy with the Region 8 Family Engagement Center has implemented MTSS or PBIS and is ready to increase the work of family engagement. The school has the capacity to:

1. Demonstrate readiness for family engagement.
2. Develop a plan for cultivating a school culture that reflects family needs and true partnership.
3. Collect and share data relevant to family engagement projects implemented through the Family Engagement Hub.
4. Ensure that all involved administration and staff participate in training offered by the R8 Family Engagement and Literacy Hub.
5. Commit to partnership with the Family Engagement Hub for a minimum of one year.

The Region 8 Family Engagement Hub commits to:

1. Providing professional learning and technical assistance in relation to the Region 8 Family Engagement project.
2. Provide financial support to implement family engagement work as agreed upon between the school district and the Region 8 Family Engagement Hub.
3. Analyzing data provided by the district and sharing regional information about Family Engagement work with partners.

Family Engagement Strategies

Family engagement with schools creates a positive and supportive environment for students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. It strengthens the relationship between home and school, which benefits everyone involved—students, families, teachers, and the broader community. By working together, families and schools can create an educational experience that supports a child’s growth and prepares them for success in life.

The following strategies have proven to engage families and improve student outcomes. Participating districts or buildings will select one strategy to implement with our support, using it as a catalyst for building stronger family-school partnerships.

1. English Language Learner family movie night with movies with subtitles in the chosen language of origin for the evening. Book distribution for multiple grade levels. Have staff available that speak the families' language of origin develop a communication strategy with families that best suits their needs.
2. Conduct home visits with students throughout the summer. Provide information for parents about summer reading and books for students.
3. Provide home visits by Principal and Kinder teachers to incoming Kindergarten students. Chat with families and share information about resources, school-wide expectations and how to be a strong parent advocate while there.
4. Family Engagement Pilots and implementation support
5. Mini-grants
6. Talking is Teaching Campaign expansion/enhancement.
7. Professional Development for Administrators, Educators, Community partners.
8. Informational videos
9. Attendance Works
10. Implement Relational Leadership through Listening Circles, Community Conversations, Learning Walks or a combination of these tools.

Contact Information

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Sources

https://familyengagementsolutions.org

Green, Crystal, Mariah Voutilainen, and Lauren Ziegler. Journeys in Family School Engagement. Helsinki: HundrED, 2023. https://doi.org/10.58261/ZHAC4043

MiFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework

Mapp, Henderson, Cuevas, Franco, Ewert. Everyone Wins!: The Evidence for Family-School Partnerships and Implications for Practice. Scholastic Professional, 2022.

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