Region 8 MiFamily Engagement Centers

Professional Development and Technical Assistance



Introduction

The Region 8 MiFamily Engagement Center would like to partner with multiple stakeholders throughout the region to provide professional learning opportunities and technical assistance. This could be offered in a variety of ways- a planned professional learning day for the district, professional learning for a specific building or set of staff, updating current family engagement strategies and may also be offered in a virtual format if desired. Professional development opportunities and technical assistance will be provided at **NO COST** to school districts, education professionals or partner agencies in Region 8.

Research shows that when parents are engaged with their child's schooling- student outcomes improve. This means less absenteeism and improved educational outcomes. The following professional development opportunities are being offered to support schools, education professionals and partner agencies through the 35i Family Engagement Centers Grant.

Everyday Strengths: Practical Strategies for Meaningful Family Engagement

Research has shown that engaging families in building five key Protective Factors can increase family strengths, enhance child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

After this session, participants will understand the five protective factors, their importance and how to identify everyday strategies to keep families strong. Once we understand what it means to work with families in a strength-based way, we can support the building of protective factors through our daily interactions. This leads to strengthened, trusting relationships and deeper family partnerships. Everyone benefits from understanding the protective factors and how they keep us strong.

Everyday Strengths: Practical Strategies for Meaningful Family Engagement is 1.5 hour session. This session is appropriate for all education professionals including administrators, school staff, educators, consultants and behavioral support in the region.

More Than Moments: Building Family Engagement That Lasts

What does family engagement actually look like — and how do you make it last?

For many educators, family engagement stops at the event. A well-attended night, a signed permission slip, a packed gymnasium — and then silence. But meaningful engagement, the kind that shifts student outcomes, requires more than moments. It requires everyday strategies for authentic, two-way communication that educators can use in their classrooms and buildings, every day.

This interactive session introduces the MiFamily Engagement Centers and the practical strategies we help educators build alongside districts — not as an add-on, but as a core part of daily practice.

Participants will leave with:

- Concrete strategies for building authentic, two-way communication with families at the classroom and building level
- Real examples of what family engagement looks like in practice — and the shifts educators saw when they used them
- Tools for tailoring outreach and communication to the specific families and communities they serve
- Access to coaching, consulting, and professional development through their regional MiFamily Engagement Center

This is not a lecture. Through collaborative discussion, real classroom stories, and a structured reflection activity, participants will identify strategies they're already using well, name gaps in their current approach, and leave with specific, usable next steps for their own classroom or building.

Whether you're just beginning to think about family engagement or looking to strengthen what you've already built — this conversation is for you.

Family Engagement Self Assessment Workshop

This workshop will explore the importance of family engagement, how it can positively impact student success and set the context for why this self-assessment is critical. Utilizing a family engagement assessment, participants will evaluate the current state of family engagement in the school. Information needed could include surveys, interviews, or reviewing data on current family participation. Participants will determine where their school stands on the engagement spectrum.

Based on the findings from the self-assessment, the facilitator will guide participants in creating specific, actionable steps to move their engagement strategies forward. This plan could include setting short- and long-term goals, identifying resources needed, and deciding how to measure progress. The Region 8 MiFamily Engagement Center will conduct regular check-ins with the district

to offer continued support, feedback, and potential training. This helps maintain momentum and ensures that schools feel equipped to make progress.

This workshop is recommended for multidisciplinary school-wide teams for culture/climate, PBIS, MTSS or school improvement. Time commitment will vary and can be customized to the needs of each group.

Family Engagement Support Tailored to Your Needs

The Region 8 MiFamily Engagement Center is available to tailor professional development and support to the needs of your district, building or school team. Is there a specific topic or strategy you would like to know more about or implement?

Contact Information

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