

How Do We Measure Up?



*What We Can Do to Improve
Family Engagement in Our
Schools Moving Forward*

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and
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WELCOME !

Who Are We?

Jacqui
DiDomenico



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Cartwright



PaTTAN's Mission

The mission of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) is to support the efforts and initiatives of the Bureau of Special Education, and to build the capacity of local educational agencies to serve students who receive special education services.

Session Agenda



Wherever you see a yellow arrow, the resources have a live hyperlink.

Defining Family Engagement

Family Engagement Research

Family Engagement Self-Assessment

Family Engagement Strategies

Resources

Defining Family Engagement



Family Engagement promotes equitable partnerships among schools, families, and communities to actively advance student achievement through shared commitment, decision-making, and responsibility.

Families and schools working together,
because our students are worth it

Regulations and Implications for Practice



IDEA



ESSA



PA State Performance
Plan (SPP)

Indicator 8



Danielson Framework

Component 4C -
Communicating with
Families



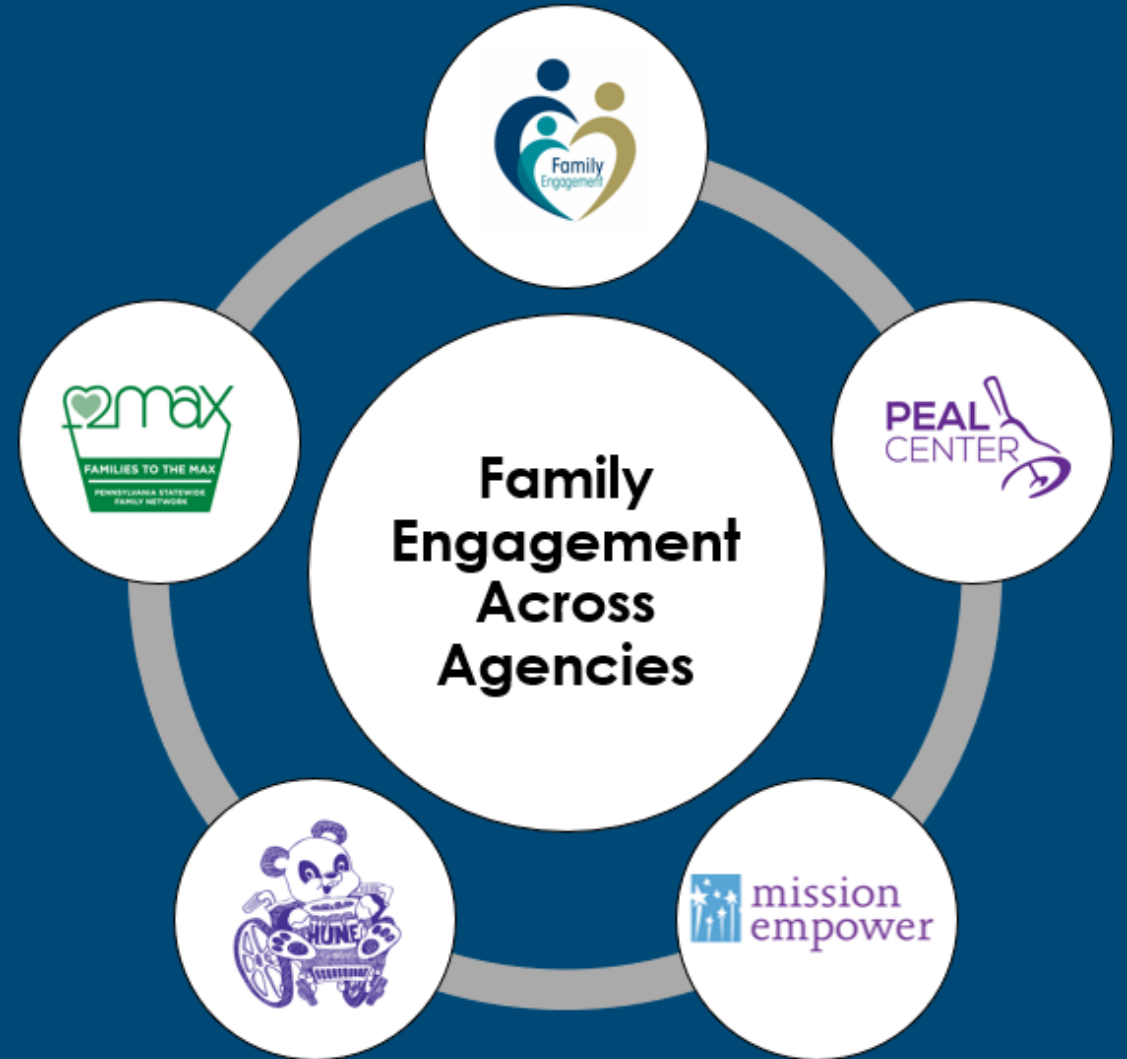
PA System for Principal
Effectiveness

Component 4A – Maximizes
Parent and Community
Involvement and Outreach

Family Engagement Across Agencies

Working together to:

- Increase family engagement
- Empower families
- Presume competence
- Lead change
- Provide support to families

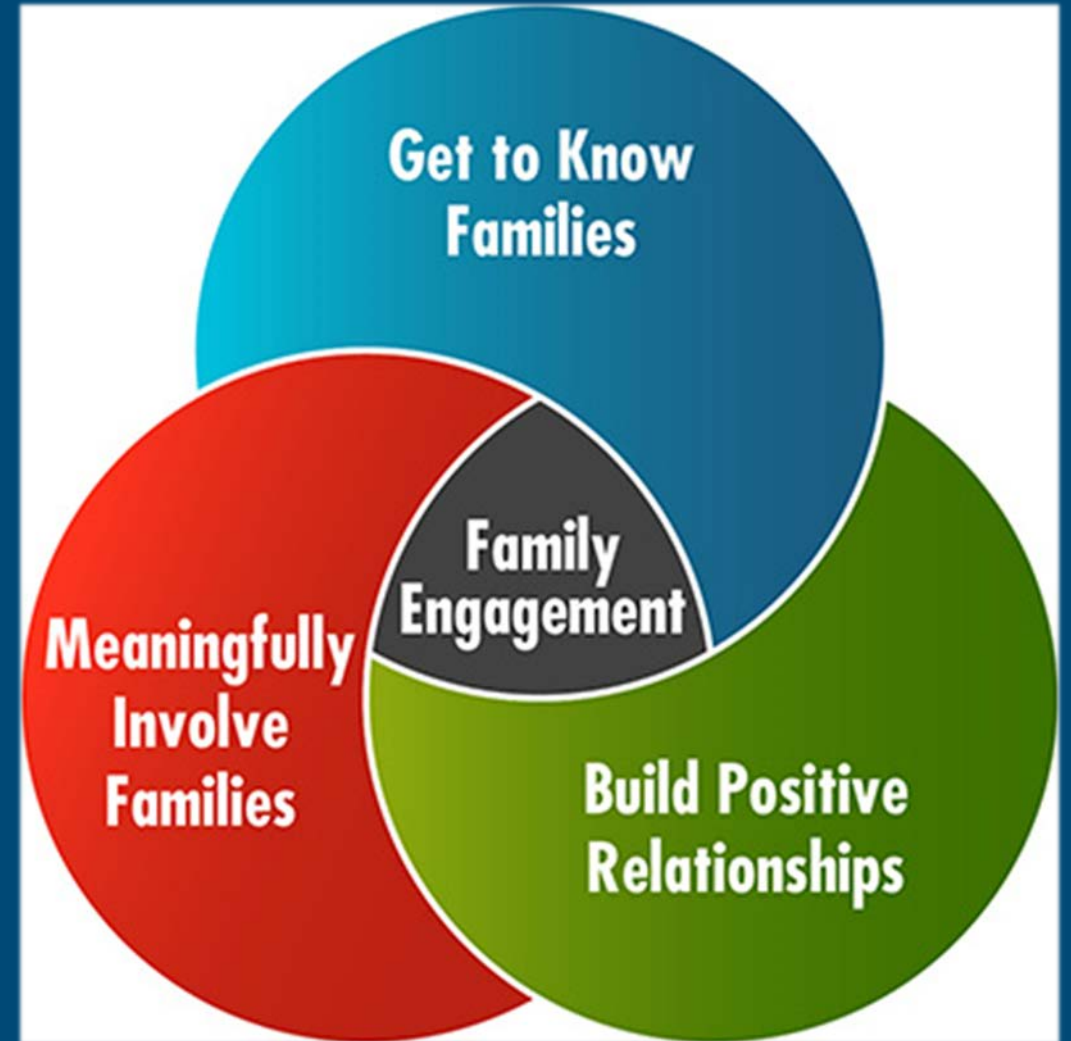


Activity



What is the difference
between involvement
and engagement?

Attendance/ Involvement vs. Engagement/ Commitment



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How Do We Measure Up Against the Research ?



Children with Engaged Families Are...

More likely to:

- Earn higher grades or test scores
- Graduate from high school and attend post-secondary education
- Develop self-confidence and motivation in the classroom
- Have better social skills and classroom behavior

Less likely to:

- Have low self-esteem
- Need redirection in the classroom
- Develop behavioral issues

The Dual Capacity-Building Framework

The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)



Are Teachers



?

- More than seven in 10 educators identify engaging parents and the community in improving education for students as challenging or very challenging.
- 84% of educators would choose a school with more engaged parents over one offering a higher salary.
- Teachers attribute lack of preparation as one of their greatest barriers to increased family engagement.

Family Engagement: Self-Assessment



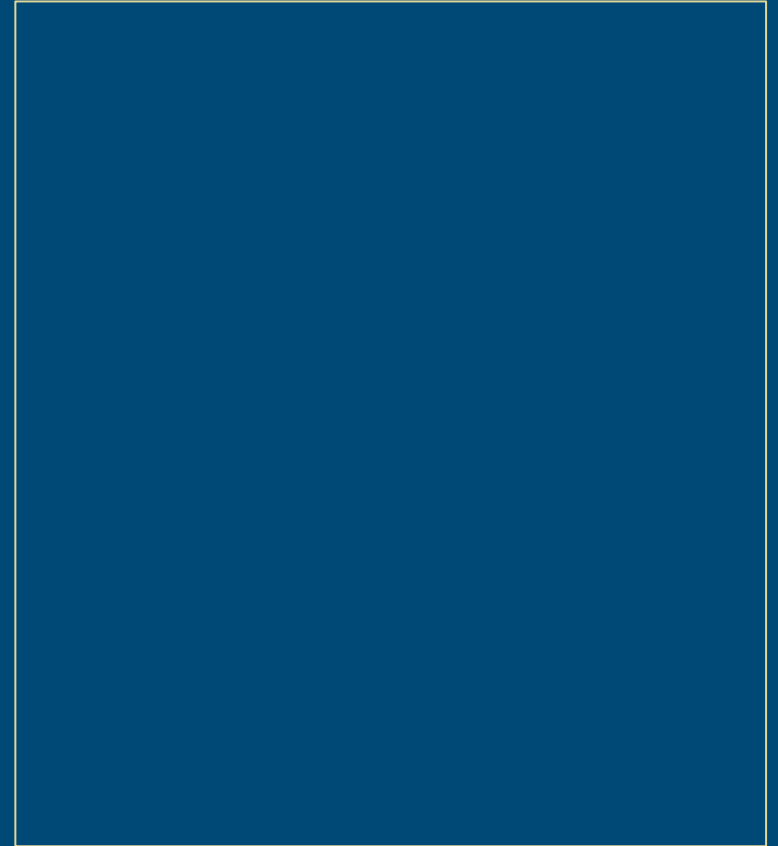
Activity

Successes
and
Challenges in
Family
Engagement

Successes

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin white border, intended for notes on successes.

Challenges

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin white border, intended for notes on challenges.

Enhancing Family Engagement Needs Assessment

Welcoming All Families into the School Community

Does your school practice and support mutually respectful relationships with families?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Considerations are given to the costs associated with activities and school events as not to exclude students and families from full participation.	Evidence →
<input type="checkbox"/>	Co-train with families/teachers on the cultural features of the community and provide materials in many languages and appropriate readability levels.	

Communicating Effectively

Does your school regularly query families to identify issues and areas of concern?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Surveys are sent to families to determine needs, interests, and concerns to effectively support home-school partnerships and student progress.	Evidence →
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication between home and school is two-way. School staff seek feedback and input from families regarding areas of need, interest, and concern.	

Supporting Student Success

Do school policies exist that consider the cultural factors and diversity of the school community so families are valued partners in the education of their children?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a school policy addressing the diversity of the school's student population and its impact on achievement.	Evidence →
<input type="checkbox"/>	An effort is made to enlist families as partners in education, utilizing families' knowledge of their children's strengths, interests, and areas of need.	

Speaking Up for Every Child

Are opportunities provided to teach advocacy skills to families?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Families learn the necessary skills to speak up for their children.	Evidence →
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information is available to families that provide available resources, advocacy organizations, and contacts.	

Shared Decision-Making

Does your school have a clearly stated philosophy and policy about partnerships and decision-making with families?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	There exists a written philosophy and policy of partnership to meaningfully include families in the information sharing and decision-making process. This information is provided to families in an accessible format.	Evidence →
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a strong representation of families in school improvement plan teams.	

Collaborating with the Community

Does your school have a system for linking families with community resources?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Families are routinely linked to community services and organizations.	Evidence →
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trained school-community liaisons who are familiar with the community history, language, and cultural background to coordinate activities are essential members of the school district staff.	

Family Engagement Strategies



Strategies for Family Engagement



- Mission, Vision, and Goals
- Communication
- Shared Decision Making
- Student Voice

Your School's

M₃ I₁ S₁ S₁ I₁ O₁ N₁

V₁ I₁ S₁ I₁ O₁ N₁

and

G₂ O₁ A₁ L₁ S₁

- Address family engagement when drafting mission and vision statements
- Engage families to contribute information when establishing school goals
- Share mission and vision statements with families on a regular basis
- Initiate connecting family engagement activities to LEA's academic goals

Your School's

C O M M U N I C A T I O N

A Systemic Approach

Preparing & Training Your Staff

- Take a 'communication audit' of your staff
- Clarify expectations of frequency and quality of communications of your staff
- Provide staff training on the use of communication tools and apps
- Maintain respectful and courteous communications in all instances

[illegible]

- Survey families regularly for their communication preferences
- Recognize that not every family can access the same communication types
- Try to be clear and concise and not inundate families with unnecessary information
- Be proactive! I provide positive, family friendly communication **FIRST** and **OFTEN**
- Provide multimodal communication, both digitally and non-digitally
- Ensure that all information is provided in the languages of my students/families

Activity

Communicating with Families – How Do I Measure Up?

1. Never 2. Sometimes 3. Frequently 4. Most of the Time 5. Always

Survey families re: communication preferences _____

Consider families' lack of access when I communicate _____

Communicate clearly, concisely; do not inundate families with information _____

Communicate positively, in family friendly terms, first, and often _____

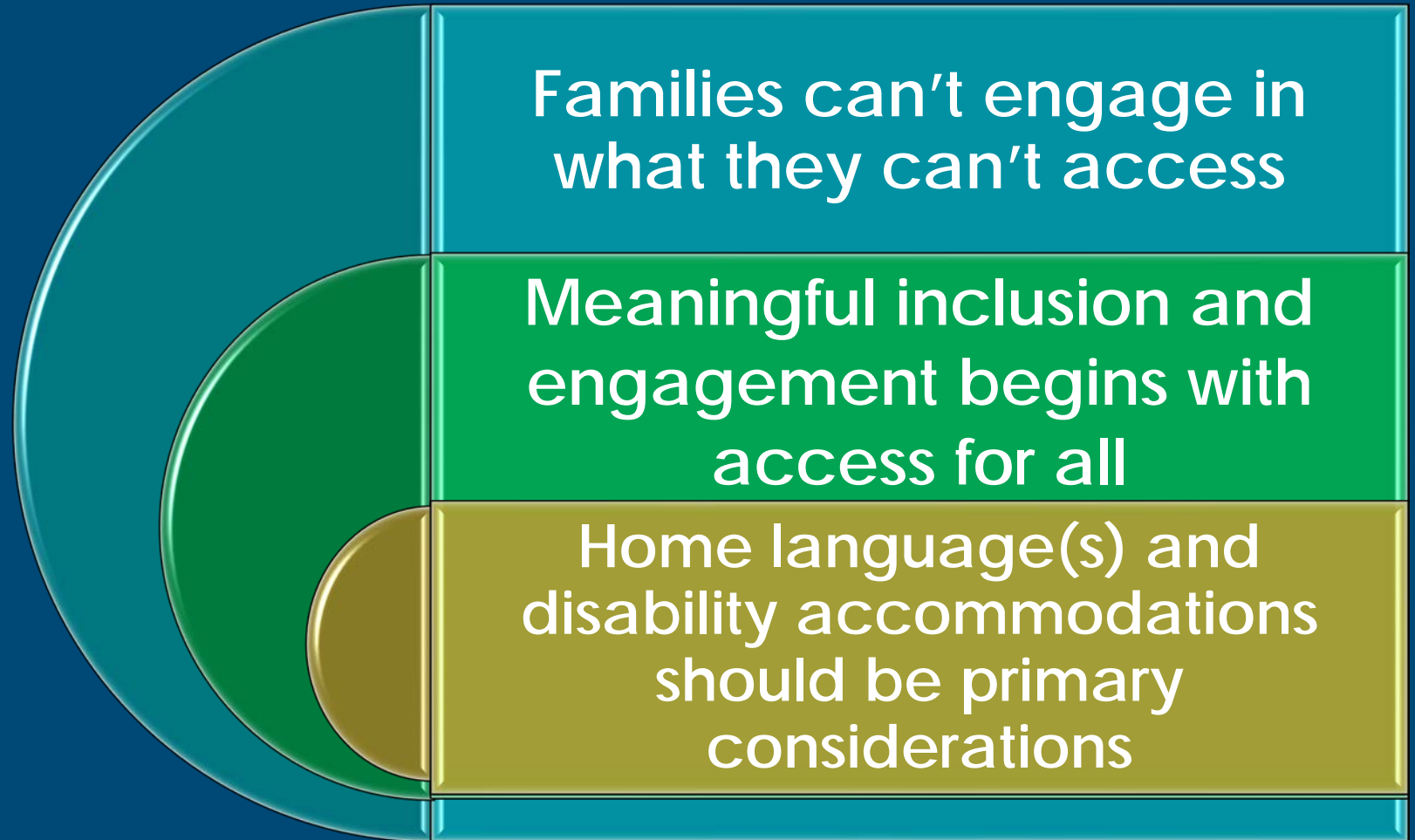
Provide multimodal communication, digitally and non-digitally _____

Communicate all information in the languages of my students/families _____

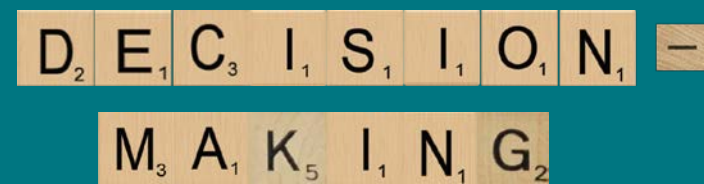
TOTAL _____

Moving Forward, Provide Accessibility to Families

*It's Not Just a
Buzzword*



Your School's



- Address staff and family readiness to work together
- Value families as decision-making partners
- Institute family inclusion in decision-making and problem-solving at every level
- Identify the goals and priorities of families and community members
- Use team meetings as an opportunity to determine strategies that will work for your school community

Student-Led Meetings and Events

- A time to celebrate students and the work they've accomplished
- Addresses academic or behavioral issues with all the key players at the table
- Applies the concept of student-led IEPs to the general education setting
- **Bonus** – family engagement also tends to increase with this approach!

Benefits of Student-Led Meetings and Events

Increased
engagement and
accountability

Increased self-
confidence and
self-advocacy
skills

Greater levels of
employment and
graduation

More inclusive,
positive meeting
environment

Reduce stigma
associated with
having a disability

Enhanced
knowledge of
disabilities and
accommodations

Resources for Family Engagement



PaTTAN Resources for Family Engagement



Multi-Tiered System of Support ▾

Graduation/Post Secondary Outcomes ▾

Disabilities ▾

Supports ▲

Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY)

Family Engagement

Inclusive Practices

Intensive Interagency

Paraprofessionals

Special Education Leadership

STEM & Computer Science

Supporting Students with Disabilities in Virtual Environments (SSDVE)

NEW RESOURCES FOR YOUR CHILD
WITH VISION AND/OR HEARING
CONCERNS

**THE FAMILY
RESOURCE
GROUP**

Let us support your child's success.



FAMILIES TO THE MAX



Activity

PaTTAN's Family Engagement Webpage

- Go to
 - www.pattan.net
 - Supports tab
 - Family Engagement
- Answer the scavenger hunt questions
- Based on your hunt, select one resource you commit to sharing with families and/or colleagues

Your Own LEA's Website

- Go to your LEA's website and find each item.
- Record how many clicks it takes from the website's home page. After each item, return to the home page and move to the next item.
- Based on your data, ponder and note: *How user friendly is this site?*

Website Scavenger Hunt



PaTTAN's Family Engagement Webpage

OR

Your Own LEA's Website

ITEM	Answer
How many Family Engagement Modules are available?	
What percentage of LEAs are included in the SPP Indicator 8 Survey each year?	
Find one resources that LEAs should share with families.	
Name three of the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships	
Name a PaTTAN Family Engagement Consultant in your region.	
Name one resource you commit to share with families and/or colleagues.	

ITEM	CLICKS FROM HOME PAGE	DOES NOT EXIST
Dates school is closed for winter break		
Community event calendar		
View website in multiple languages		
Instructions on using the parent portal		
LEA's social media profiles		
On a scale of 1-10, how family friendly is your LEA's site?		

ENHANCING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING MODULES

**Welcoming All Families into
the School Community**

Supporting Student Success

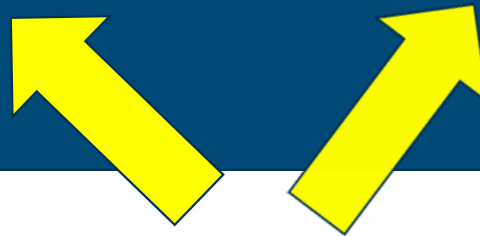
Shared Decision Making



Communicating Effectively

Speaking Up for Every Child

**Collaborating with the
Community**

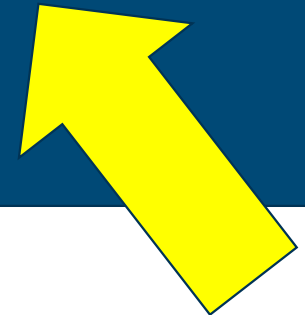
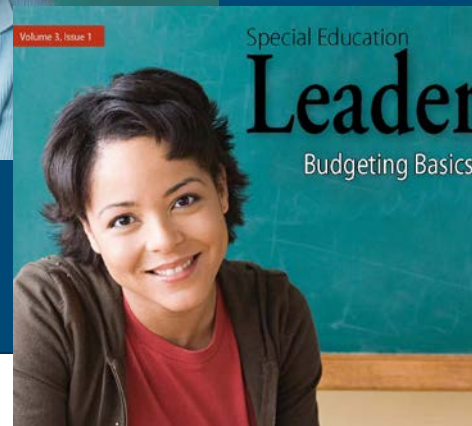
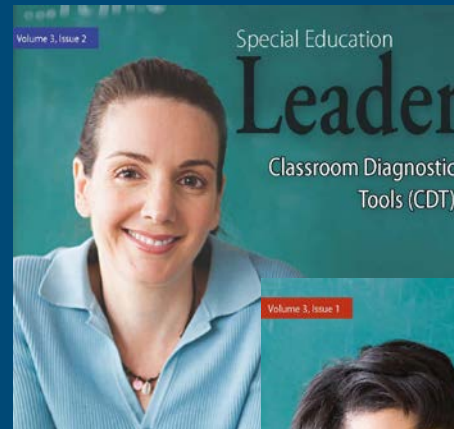


...for Educators

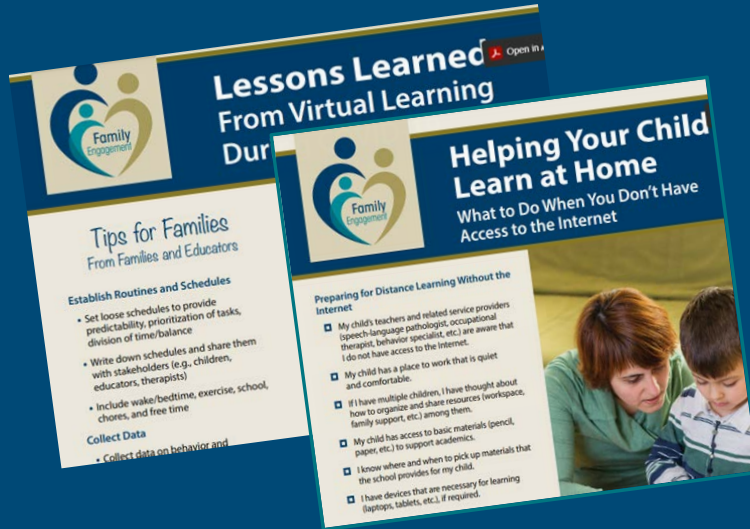


Family Engagement PaTTANpods:

- Collaborating with Families: Effective Family Engagement
- Parent Consultants: Supporting Family-School Partnerships for School Success
- Options to Resolve Differences Between Families and Schools



...for Families



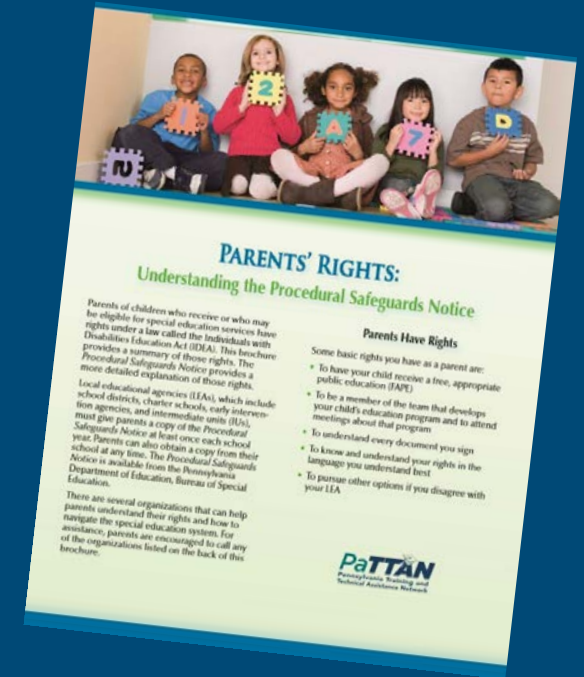
Education ABCs	
AAC	Augmentative/Alternative Communication
ABA	Applied Behavior Analysis
ADA	Americans With Disabilities Act
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
AIM	Accessible Instructional Materials
ALD	Assistive Listening Device
APS	Approved Private School
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder

IS YOUR CHILD HAVING DIFFICULTY IN SCHOOL?

A Guide to Communicating
With School Staff



Resources to Share with Families webpage



And many more!

Pennsylvania Family Engagement Framework

The Pennsylvania Family Engagement Birth through College, Career, Community Ready Framework

A tool to guide the implementation of effective practices, use of shared language, and a family engagement continuum for families across their child's educational lifespan.



Pennsylvania's Family Engagement Birth through
College, Career, Community Ready Framework:

A Companion Guide for Families



Check Out These Resources!



**How to begin positive relationships with families:
8 tips to try**

**8 tips for building a good relationship with your
child's teacher**



Peer Engagement



Resources
for Student-
Led
Activities
(*and more!*)

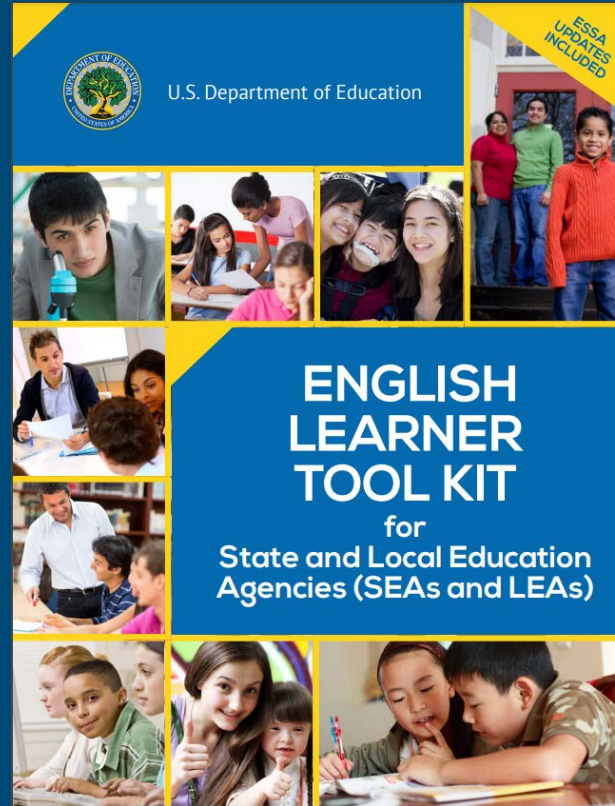




Creating the Conditions for Family-School-Community Partnerships

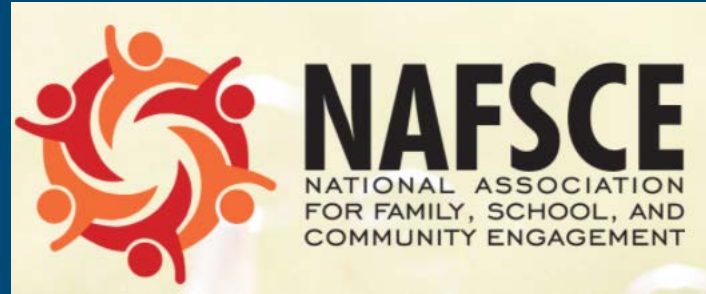


Family Engagement:
Collaborating with Families of Students with Disabilities



Creating Conditions for Meaningful Family
Engagement From Pre-K to High School

State and National Resource Organizations



Happy Thanksgiving!



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Questions
and

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Answers

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- Teachers' Desk Reference: The Shared Responsibility of Educational Team Members. <https://www.pattan.net/Publications/Teachers-Desk-Reference-The-Shared-Responsibility>

T H A N K
Y O U

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#PAFamilyEngagement

**Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania**
Tom Wolf, Governor