

## **Family Engagement and the IEP**

Department of Public Instruction  
May 2016 Guidance

Below are some possible suggestions for IEP teams to consider when filling out the family engagement prompt on the Sample IEP form. Teams may explore one or multiple areas.

These suggestions are not required and IEP teams may consider other means of responding to the family engagement prompt. The prompt should not be used to require a family member to provide a special education service or in general, an activity related to the provision of FAPE.

*The I-4, IEP Linking Form, Section II. prompt asks:*

*“How will school staff engage parents/families in the education of the student (e.g., sharing resources, communicating with parents/families, building upon family strengths, connecting parents/families to learning activities, etc.)?”*

### **There is a Large Spectrum of Options to Engage Families in the IEP**

#### **Connecting Families to Specific Skill Activities**

- Summarize a few universal strategies to support literacy instruction in the home and community that were discussed with parent in meeting.
- Introduce fun learning games and/or activities that support academic needs of students or help with generalization, fluency, or mastery of skills learned in school.

#### **Connecting Families to IEP Goals**

- Summarize how parent assisted in developing the goal(s) in IEP.
- Summarize discussion of a strategy used at school to support a goal that parent feels might be able to be used at home.

#### **Connecting Families to Accommodations / Supports**

- Summarize possible strategies of accommodating student in home and/or community settings that is similar to how student is accommodated in school.

#### **Supporting Families Resources and Networking:**

- Provide family with resources for support and/or networking with other families (ex: brochures on community and state resources such as [CYSHCN](#), [WSPEI](#), [WI FACETS](#), [WI Family Ties](#), [ASW](#), [TIG](#), [Parent to Parent](#), [Family Voices of WI](#), [Alianza Latina](#)) or conferences/events.
- For transition aged students, provide family connections with state agencies (ex: DVR, [ADRC](#), [CCOTs](#), [Promise Grant](#))

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### **General Tips:**

- Help families recognize what they are already doing at home to support their child's learning and include this information in this section.
- Let the family lead the conversation on the types of connection to learning they feel would be helpful (ex: resources, accommodations, goals, activities)

### **Purpose of Prompt:**

This prompt was created to connect with US Dept of Education Dual Capacity Framework on Family-School Partnerships and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Promoting Excellence for All which recognize the role of family engagement in improving student outcomes (including literacy outcomes).