High-Impact Family Engagement Strategies for After School Programs

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Today’s Objectives

Participants will:

• Consider the role educational equity plays in building the capacity of schools to engage families.

• Learn and share ideas to develop high-impact family engagement.
Know Your Why

Michael Jr: Know Your Why
Educational Equity

Educational equity means that every student has access to the educational resources and rigor they need at the right moment in their education across race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, sexual orientation, family background and/or family income.
Educational Equity

What’s your why?
Culturally Responsive Practices: An approach to teaching that recognizes the value of learners’ cultural beliefs and practices and draws upon them to inform instruction, enhance learner self-advocacy, and bridge learners’ home and school experiences.
**Definition of Culture**

*Culture* describes how we live on a daily basis in terms of our language, ancestry, religion, food, dress, musical tastes, traditions, values, political and social affiliations, recreation, and so on.

*(Singleton, 2006)*
CCLCs must offer families of students served opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children’s education, including opportunities for literacy and related educational development.
Parents of students from subgroups identified in the law
Parents of students from socioeconomically diverse backgrounds
Parents of students with disabilities
Parents of migrant and immigrant families
Parents of English learners
Community based and civil rights organizations
Employers and business organizations

Dear Colleague letter from Secretary King – ESSA Stakeholder Engagement, June 2016
What is High-Impact Family Engagement?

High-impact family and community engagement is collaborative, culturally responsive, and focused on improving children’s learning.

From the National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement: https://nafsce.site-ym.com/page/definition
## What is High-Impact Family Engagement?

<table>
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<th>E V E N T S</th>
<th>Low Impact</th>
<th>Moderate Impact</th>
<th>Higher Impact</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Staff talk with families on orientation day.</td>
<td>Students show their work and perform at quarterly family nights.</td>
<td>Gatherings for families and school staff to view student work, share learning strategies and develop a SMART goal.</td>
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Effective Family Engagement

- Use multiple family engagement strategies
- Identify a goal of increasing family engagement
- Tailor family engagement strategies to the specific population

How Family, School, and Community Engagement Can Improve Student Achievement and Influence School Reform
Flamboyan Foundation defines family engagement as collaboration between families and educators that accelerates student learning.
A CCLC Guiding Principle

“Families are treated as essential partners in program’s efforts to support youth.”

- Address student/family needs
- Empower families
- Staff inform families of student progress
- Families inform program structure and activities

Address Student/Family Need

- Have a parent suggestion box
- Host a discussion group for families
- Strike up conversations with parents that focus on them
- Connect with day teachers and district staff
- Track meaningful family contacts in a communication log
- Invite children to plan a family appreciation event
Families as Assets

• Invite families to be “community connectors”
• Host opportunities for families to meet one another
• Invite families on field trips, to share talents/interests
• Sponsor classes to boost families’ skills and knowledge
Turn and Talk

• How does your program address families’ needs?
• How does your program empower families?
• What could you consider doing differently in the future?
High and Low Impact Communication

**High Impact**
- Face to face
- Personal phone calls
- Personalized texts and emails

**Low Impact**
- Backpack mail
- Robo calls
- Group texts
- Digital Message Board
- Posted flyers
- Bulk emails
Communication Questions to Consider

• Do our CCLC’s methods of communication reach our most vulnerable families?
• What structures do we have in place to support this?

How do we know?
Inform Families of Student Progress

- Use face time to build positive relationships
- Ensure communication with families is frequent, personalized
- Consider making one of your four family events a one-on-one “listening session”
- Convey how learning happens anytime, anywhere
Families can help shape program’s **Structure** and **Activities** by:

- Serving on boards and committees
- Representing student groups served by program
- Participating in surveys, focus groups, one-on-one interviews
- Contributing to vision, mission, policies and plans
Guest CCLC Coordinators

Cola DeNucci
CLC Coordinator and Grade 4 Teacher
Unity Elementary School

Courtney Janak
After-School Program Director
Phillips Elementary School
Turn and Talk

What are some ways your CCLC

• Informs families of student progress?
• Invites families to help shape the program?
• What additional methods would you consider in the future?
Family Engagement Resources for CCLCs

- Build the Out-of-School Time Network Engaging Families Toolkit
- Structuring Out of School Time to Improve Student Achievement, What Works Clearinghouse
- You for Youth Family Engagement Tools
- Arizona CCLC activities