



Framework – Family Engagement

21st CCLC sites will report how many Adult Family Members participants were recorded for each program year on state and federal reports. Each family member of a 21st CCLC attendee may be counted once per program year. Child and youth-serving systems broadly define “family” in family engagement as including parents, grandparents, guardians, extended family and other adult caregivers. This expanded definition acknowledges today’s varied family units and their needs for extended supports.

Definition

For schools and districts across Arizona, family engagement is rapidly shifting from random family involvement activities to an integral part of education reform efforts with meaningful engagement partnership practices that include trusting relationships and are linked to learning. Family engagement refers to an intentional and systemic partnership of education, family, and community members who share responsibility for a student’s preparation for school, work, and adult life. The shared vision and responsibility are reflected in sustainable family engagement policies, principles, and practices.

Key Components for Building Capacity

1. System Vision

- **Systemic:** Family-school partnerships are essential supported across the organization.
- **Integrated:** Capacity building is integrated into all aspects of site’s improvement strategy.
- **Sustained:** School leaders are committed to, and have a systemic vision of, family-school partnerships that are supported with resources and infrastructure.

2. Essential Conditions and Opportunities

- **Trusting Relationships:** School-home relationships promote empathy and respect.
- **Welcoming and Affirming Environments that are Culturally Responsive:** All families are welcome in safe and healthy environments where learning is grounded in a cultural view where multiple expressions of diversity are recognized and regarded as assets for teaching and learning.
- **Two-way communication:** Comprehensive home-school communication plan where sites are not talking **TO** families but doing work **WITH** families.
- **Linked to Learning:** Intentionally involve families in systemic academic improvement activities.

3. Families Engaged in Diverse Roles

- **Social Capital:** Families act, lead and become advocates and leaders themselves.
- **Self-Efficacy:** Families have a sense of comfort and confidence to encourage student success.
- **Shared Values and Principles:** Families are essential assets, equitable partners, and informed decision makers.
- **Equitable Partnerships:** 21st CCLC programs value and encourage-the voices, knowledge, expertise, capacity and experiences of all 21st CCLC families as stakeholders.
- **Adult Education Champions:** Engaged adults understand the power of human connection and insist that students have the pathways to reach their full potential.



★ The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Title IV-B program is funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Arizona Department of Education. For more information visit: <http://www.azed.gov/21stcclc/>



What is Happening at Arizona's 21st CCLC K-12 Sites?

Long gone are the days that families should be on campus to be engaged. The ADE is dedicated to strengthening the voice of families and bringing focus to meeting families where they are and planning **WITH** not for the family. 21st CCLC programs shall track participation through sign-in sheets, zoom record, survey, QR code, calendar, etc.

| Systemic Practice Involvement - Access (School Climate and Culture that Involve Every Family) | Family Literacy and Related Services Linked to Learning Engagement - Understanding (Opportunities to Engage families in academic improvement activities.) | Shared Responsibility and Leadership Empowerment - Action (Family Efficacy and Decision-Making) |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Welcoming Environment - Meaningful Interactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship Building activities - Cafecito's Family Champions Bulletin Board and other Recognition Welcome Packet and/or Orientation for new families Check-in calls that are continuous by same person to start building trusting relationships and connecting on a human level Quarterly phone and in-person conferences Educate families of their rights School walk-thrus <p>Effective Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Front office or high traffic areas bulletin boards, marquee, and suggestion box Newsletters/Calendars Translate information Two-Way communication Family-Friendly Apps Family Handbook Community Resource Handbook Community Resources and School Information Fairs, Job Fairs, Referrals to social services agencies Virtual Home Visits <p>Train staff how to work with families as equal partners</p> | <p>Linked to Learning Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Literacy, Parenting classes/workshops Scholarships for community offered classes (GED, English, Financial, Navigating Schools) American Dream Academy (ASU) Increased Graduation Rate seminars College Applications, and Scholarships info Family College tours Showcases and culminating events for OST classes Quarterly Family Nights (series/not one time event) Take-Home activities Interactive Make It/ Take It Virtual YouTube, Ted Talks or other video viewing with response ticket Parent Resource Centers - Community Closet Good Habits calendars Health and Wellness classes & programs Lending Library (books, games to support learning) Whole School/Grade Level Book Study (and culminating activities) <p>Family Engagement at Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss expectations and importance of learning Discuss college, careers, and child's dreams Create positive study environments Limit TV watching and video games and encourage creativity, problem solving and reading Assist with organizing homework Discuss behavior, self-discipline and work habits | <p>Family/School Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shadow child Volunteering opportunities Parent Show and Tell APTT (Academic Parent Teacher Teams) Parent Organizations participation Parent Universities Student Led conferences Data Driven information nights Parent Advisory committee Board Meetings Formal Parent Leadership program with certificate of completion Parent Institute Be Your Child's Advocate training Parent Input surveys Community forums/study groups Family buddy system Family networking Parent Progress Reports (to rate child and school) <p>Families in Diverse Roles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporters Problem Solvers Encouragers Monitors Advocates Role Models |



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