



Guide to Family Engagement

For Iowa 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Vic Jaras, Iowa Department of Education



What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement Opportunities (ESSA, Sec. 8101(39)) –Participation of parents in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education in afterschool and school; and
- That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

What is Family Engagement?

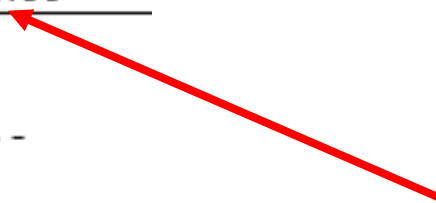
- Family Literacy and Related Services (**ESSA, Sec. 8101(24)**)
 - Services provided to families that are of sufficient intensity in terms of hours, and of sufficient duration, to make sustainable changes in a family, and that integrate the following activities:
 - Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children;
 - Training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children; and
 - Parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency. *Partner with a Community College to provide free or low cost Adult Literacy classes. Your local community college can inform parents about the programs they offer as part of your Family Engagement agenda.*

Programs are required to have Parent Engagement Nights (Meetings).

- **Minimum of 1 meeting per quarter** (show expenses each quarter, document your meeting, take attendance)
- Generally *these should occur AFTER the program* so more parents can attend. Iowa has a high percentage of both parents working-consider this as you schedule a time after the program.
- **Best Practice- 1 meeting each month-** (this helps keep parents informed about the program and builds solid community relations)
- **TAKE ATTENDANCE SO YOU CAN REPORT THIS DATA ON YOUR LOCAL EVALUATION.** If a handful of parents attend- work on communication- if 50% of parents attend- good job. If over 70% of parents attend- outstanding!

Monitoring Family Engagement (Literacy)

Authorized Activity Category	Budget Goal	
	Student Program	Family Literacy
Personnel		
	\$ 65,288.98	400.69
Staff Travel		
	300.00	\$ -



We monitor your Claim Spreadsheet and expect to find expenses in the Family Literacy column. If you did not have expenses for this 3 month quarter, we assume you did not have the required meeting(s).

*When we find expenses in the Family Literacy column we assume you had the required meeting per quarter. **If there is no expense in this category for the past three months, we assume you did NOT have the required minimum of one meeting per quarter.***

Best Practice suggestions:

- 1 Meeting per Month (recruit a parent advisory to help plan monthly events like a field trip where parents participate with their children.
- You CAN *do a field trip on a Saturday* in Iowa and ask parents to help chaperone and participate in the activity with their children.
- You can *do a Saturday Cultural Picnic Potluck* and ask parents to bring a dish that represents their cultural heritage.
- You can *have a family engagement night at your local library* and ask the librarian to talk about ways parents can support their child's reading.
- If you have a lot of parents attend, take attendance and take pictures to document the turnout. I have been to parent nights where over 100 people attend and I have been to some where only a handful of parents attend.

Best Practice suggestions:

- More parents will attend if the parent night is going to recognize the achievements of their children.
 - *Improved Attendance Awards*
 - *Improved Reading Awards*
 - *Improved Math Award*
 - *Outstanding Peer Mentor Award*
 - *Outstanding Helper*
 - *Number of Books Read*
- *Recognize the effort and achievement of children each month or each meeting.*
- *Kids can read a poem they wrote, do a play or skit or demonstrate and talk about a project they worked on during the program.*

Best Practice suggestions:

- *Ask a local restaurant to donate food for your family engagement meeting.*
- *Ask them to provide extra menus and flyers that parents can take home. Make sure to announce that the food was donated. This can help your local businesses attract more customers.*
- *Take pictures of parents and children eating and send a thank you letter with a few pictures to the local restaurant. This could be posted on your facebook or web page.*
- *Have a pot luck dinner and invite parents to share something to celebrate different cultures.*
- *If you have a cooking club, have the kids make something they have made before to share with their parents.*

Family Engagement Night Attendance:

Name:	Phone:	Email:	I can help chaperone on a field trip (Y/N)	I would like to attend a parent advisory (Y/N) and receive this info via email.

Print copies of this attendance sheet to document your family engagement meetings. Keep for your records.



ESSA Requirements

Parent and Family Engagement



What Does ESSA Require of States?

- States must:
 - Adopt challenging standards
 - Implement aligned assessments
 - Develop a comprehensive accountability system that meaningfully differentiates schools
 - Establish a method of clearly stating information about schools based on accountability metrics

Note: The **PRINCIPLES of EFFECTIVENESS** has been changed to **MEASURES of EFFECTIVENESS** with the ESSA.



Why is Parent and Family Engagement Important?

- The evidence is consistent and convincing: families have a major influence on their children's achievement in school and in life.
- When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more.

ESSA - Every Student Succeeds Act:

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has changed how local education agencies (LEAs) and schools need to engage parents and family members in improving students' academic achievement.
- For the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy, the LEA may establish a parent advisory board.
- This board must be comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the LEA. Source: **ESEA Sec. 1116(a)(2)(F)**

How to organize a Parent Advisory-

http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/journals/ed_lead/el_198910_jennings.pdf

ESSA - Every Student Succeeds Act:

- **Sec. 4106(c)** Consult with parents, among other stakeholders, in developing the LEA Title IV application.
- **Sec. 4108(5)(E)(ii)** May use Safe and Healthy students funding to provide information and guidance to parents and guardians of students about child sexual abuse awareness and prevention and how to discuss it with a child
- **TIP:** You CAN combine a TITLE I Parent Engagement Meeting with a TITLE IV B Parent Engagement Meeting as long as you are on the agenda and provide parents with specific activities to inform them about what their child does in the afterschool program.

Family Engagement Opportunities:

- **Relationship Building Activities** (Community Social Events) • Health and Wellness Classes & Programs (running club, yoga, open gym)
- Talks, Muffins w/ Mom, Donuts w/ Dad
- Incoming Freshman Nights • Two-Way Communication • Social Media Communication • Parent Drop off and Pick Up Greetings
- **Award Ceremonies** • Front Office or High Traffic Areas Bulletin Boards/ • Newsletters/ Calendars • Communication in Multiple Languages
- Welcoming Environment • Liaisons to improve communication • Physical and Emotional Safety for Families at School
- **Regular communication with parents about their child's education progress**
- Training of teachers and school personnel in the value of contributions from parent

Family Literacy and Related Services:

- Adult Literacy and other Adult Education and Career Education- **partnered with a community college**
- Increased Graduation Rate Seminars
- **Showcases of after school classes showing the accomplishments of the children**
- Monthly (Best Practice) or Quarterly Events (Minimum)
 - STEM Awareness and Project Events
- **Take Home Activities • Make It/ Take It Nights**
- Interactive Student/Parent Activities such as Gardening, Library, Computer Lab, Book and Craft Clubs
- Targeted Themes (Youth Development, Family Support, Parenting and Academic)
- Virtual YouTube or other Video Viewing with discussion on how you can help

Examples of Family Engagement strategies:

- **Building personal relationships**, respect, and mutual understanding with families through communication, community partners, and Quarterly Family Engagement Meetings.
- **Sharing data** with families about student skill levels.
- **Listening to families** about their children's interests and challenges, then using this information to differentiate instruction.
- **Incorporating content from families' home cultures** into classroom lessons and Family Engagement Nights.
- **Partner with Community Colleges** to provide Adult Literacy and provide information at Family Engagement Meetings.

You4Youth Online Course in Family Engagement

Y4Y > Courses > Family Engagement

[Contact Us](#) | [Join](#)

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Family Engagement

Introduction to Family Engagement →



Understand how to support families from diverse backgrounds and create a program that supports family needs.

Implementation Strategies →

[Creating a Family Guidebook](#)

[Family Engagement Implementation Planner](#)

[Knowing Families and Cultures](#)

[Reaching Out to Families](#)

[Understanding Program Families](#)

Train

[Building Cultural Competence Scenarios](#)

[Building Cultural Competence Scenarios II < NEW](#)

[Connecting Families to Support Training Starter](#)

All Y4Y Courses are FREE

<https://y4y.ed.gov/learn/family/>

Online Professional Development

Introduction to Family Engagement in Education

Learn about successful collaborations between families and educators and why they lead to improved outcomes for students and schools.



🕒	Length:	6 weeks
🕒	Effort:	2 to 4 hours per week
🏷️	Price:	FREE Add a Verified Certificate for \$70 USD
🏛️	Institution:	HarvardX
🎓	Subject:	Education & Teacher Training
⚙️	Level:	Introductory
💬	Language:	English

- Take a free six week course in Family Engagement from Harvard University
- <https://www.edx.org/course/introduction-to-family-engagement-in-education>

Parent Guide to Drug Prevention (free)

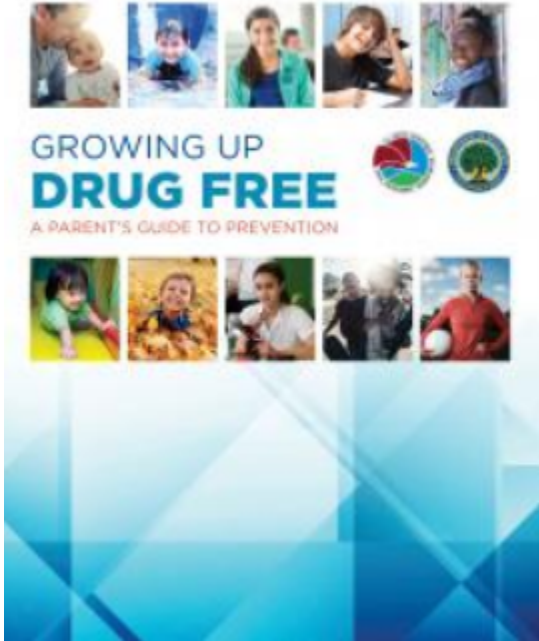
Publication: Drug Prevention

Growing up Drug-Free: A Parent's Guide to Prevention (2017)

April 27, 2017

DEA partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to update this publication that was last revised in 2012. This 40-page booklet offers information to help parents and other caregivers raise drug-free children. The guide includes an overview of substance use among youth; descriptions of substances young people may use; a look at risk factors that may make kids more vulnerable to trying and using drugs, and protective factors to offset those risks; suggestions for how to talk to children about drugs, regardless of their age; and tips on what to do if you suspect your child is using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

- <https://www.dea.gov/documents/2017/04/27/growing-drug-free-parents-guide-prevention-2017>



Family Engagement Night Activity:

- Talk to the children about drug prevention a week or two before the Family Engagement night.
- Print out copies of the Guide to growing up Drug Free for parents
- Bring in someone to the community to talk to parents about drug prevention (a healthcare provider)
- Provide information about community resources available to help families with drug problems



Toolkit for Engaging Families and the Community

Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Families and the Community as Partners in Education

Part 1: Building an understanding of family and community engagement



PART 1- https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/pacific/pdf/REL_2016148.pdf

PART 2- https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/pacific/pdf/REL_2016151.pdf

PART 3- https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/pacific/pdf/REL_2016152.pdf

PART 4- https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/pacific/pdf/REL_2016153.pdf

English Learner Toolkit:

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/index.html>

OELA

Office of English Language Acquisition

- Home
- Programs/Initiatives
- Office Contacts
- Reports & Resources
- News
- Laws, Regs & Guidance
- FAQs

This toolkit is 161 pages

The web site contains Spanish and other language translations.

English Learner Tool Kit

English Learner Tool Kit Updated with ESSA references. OELA's EL Tool Kit was published in 2015 as a companion to support the 2015 [Dear Colleague Letter](#) (DCL) produced by the Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, and the Department of Justice, outlining legal obligations for ELs. Some chapters of the tool kit have been updated related to the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA).

The **English Learner Tool Kit** helps state and local education agencies help English Learners (ELs) by fulfilling these obligations.

The Toolkit has 10 chapters (one for each section of the DCL), and contains an **overview, sample tools, and resources.**



Download the TOOL KIT https://ncela.ed.gov/files/english_learner_toolkit/OELA_2017_ELsToolkit_508C.pdf

English Learner Toolkit:

Chapters can be downloaded individually:

- [Identifying All English Learner Students](#) (PDF, 1.5MB)
- [Providing English Learners with a Language Assistance Program](#) (PDF, 800KB)
- [Staffing and Supporting an EL Program](#) (PDF, 921KB)
- [Meaningful Access to Core Curricular, Extra Curricular Programs](#) (PDF, 1.75MB)
- [Creating an Inclusive Environment and Avoiding Unnecessary Segregation](#) (PDF, 910KB)
- [Addressing English Learners with Disabilities](#) (PDF, 1.27MB)
- [Serving English Learners who Opt-Out of EL Programs](#) (PDF, 386KB)
- [Monitoring and Exiting English Learners from EL Programs and Services](#) (PDF, 1.23MB)
- [Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Districts EL Program](#) (PDF, 907KB)
- [Ensuring Meaningful Communication with Limited English Proficient Parents](#) (PDF, 1.26MB)

More Resources:

- Y4Y- <https://y4y.ed.gov/learn/family/>
- Seeds of Partnership- Family Engagement Resources- <https://www.seedsofpartnership.org/famEngResources.html>
- Resources for Parents- <https://www.edutopia.org/article/back-to-school-resources-parents>
- Evidence-based Strategies to support Family Engagement- <https://www.expandinglearning.org/expandingminds/article/evidence-based-strategies-supporting-and-enhancing-family-engagement>