

PA Standards and Supportive Practices

Standards provide educators and family members with information about learning communities' goals. The standards provide benchmarks to PA's Learning Communities to build strong partnerships.

Standard 1: Connect families to community resources that support their goals, interests, and needs.

Standard 2: Build partnerships with families that are strengths-based, authentic, reciprocal, and respectful.

Standard 3: Partner with families to identify information, resources, and strategies to support them in their roles as teachers, models, encouragers, monitors, leaders, and advocates as they support their child's learning and development.

Standard 4: Provide intentional opportunities for families to connect and engage with each other.

Standard 5: Support families as they develop their leadership and advocacy skills.

Standard 6: Build partnerships with families during times of transition.

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Family and Community Engagement Program



What is Family Engagement?

Family engagement is when educators including early childhood professionals, teachers and other education professionals, and family members have a shared goal of positive learning and development for a child in their joint care, whether a child is an infant, elementary school student, or teenager getting ready for college, a career, or participation in the community. Effective family engagement partnerships practices are strengths-based, culturally and linguistically responsive, bi-directional, trust centered, family centered, and equitable.

Why Does Family Engagement Matter?

Studies show children experiencing effective family engagement practices, regardless of their income levels or family backgrounds, are more likely than other children to have positive outcomes.¹ For example, these children are more likely to:

- Attend school regularly;
- Adapt well to school; and show exhibit good social skills and behavior.

Additionally, schools see:

- Higher level of community support; and
- Teacher satisfaction and retention.



Effective partnerships are intentional, impactful, and meaningful.

What does the Family and Community Engagement Program offer?

1. Family and Community Needs Assessment for school districts.
2. PDE Family and Community Engagement Framework training and support.
3. Family and Community Resource Connections.



¹ Center for Cultural Competence (2020). Curricula Enhancement Module Series. Washington, DC: Georgetown University.