

# Family Engagement Resource Guide

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Positive School Culture Support

August 2020

## Family Engagement

Families are an essential stakeholder in building the behavioral, academic, and social-emotional capacities of school-aged youth. Including families in school-wide decision making across the tiers, with a strengths-based and multi-directional communication approach, is a necessary step for schools. For the purpose of this resource guide, family engagement is defined as: an active, interactive, dynamic and ongoing process in which family members and key stakeholders engage as equal partners in decision-making, planning, and implementation to support children and adolescents across settings (Sheridan et al., 2011; Weist et al., 2017.)

Included in this guide are questions for schools to consider when addressing family/community engagement, strategies to use across community and school, and professional development resources.

[Five principles of family engagement, outlined by Dr. Steve Constantino:](#)

- **Culture that engages every family**
- **Communicate effectively and build relationships**
- **Empower every family**
- **Family participation in decision making**
- **Engage the greater community**

### Questions to Consider for Virtual and In-Person Settings:

- (1) Do we approach families with an understanding and expectation that there are shared responsibilities for learning? How can that be achieved?
- (2) Is a strengths-based approach used within your school when working with families?
- (3) What do you have in place to create an atmosphere that is family-friendly, warm, and inviting?
- (4) Are families involved with the action planning process as it relates to engagement and climate?

### Resources

- [Teaching Positive Behavior at Home](#)
- [Acknowledging at Home](#)
- [Supporting Family with PBIS at Home](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Stress During Covid](#)
- [The Power of a Positive Phone Call Home](#)
- [Practical Tips for Parents of Young Children with Challenging Behavior](#)
- [11 Tips to Engage with Families](#)
- [Using Praise to Encourage Appropriate Behaviors at Home](#)
- [Web Series on Family Engagement](#)
- [Family Behavior 101 Presentation: PBIS Compendium](#)
- [Aligning and Integrating Family Engagement in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports](#)
- [Partners in Education: A Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships](#)
- [Center for Evidence-Based Practice: Young Children with Challenging Behavior](#)
- [National Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports](#)
- [CASEL: SEL in Homes and Communities](#)