

Introduction to Developing and Implementing Equitable and Culturally Sensitive Birth to Grade 12 Family Engagement Frameworks

Presenters



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Problem of Practice

- # Limited capacities of Family Engagement in SEA and not well articulated by SEA as policy priority
- # ESSA law requires development of Parent and Family Engagement plan



ESSA's Parent and Family Engagement Plan

"Provide all children significant opportunities to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps"

Problem of Practice

- # Limited capacities Family Engagement in SEA and not well articulated by SEA as policy priority
- # ESSA law requires development of Parent and Family Engagement plan



Support states in planning process and extend to early childhood

- » Establish internal and external stakeholder engagement to develop a birth to 12th grade framework
- » July 2017 Dec 2019

Partners

- # Maryland State Department of Education as fiscal agent
- # Formal agreement with partners
 - Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC)
 - National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
 - Campaign for Grade Level Reading
 - Policy Equity Group







State Consortium on Family Engagement 17 Participating States

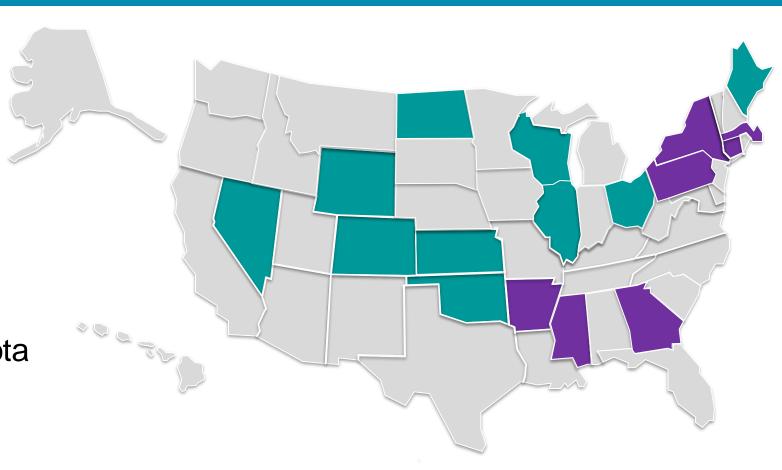
Cohort 1:

- 1. Arkansas
- 2. Connecticut 2. Illinois
- 3. Massachusetts 3. Kansas
- 4. Mississippi
- 5. New York
- 6. Pennsylvania
- 7. South Carolina 7. Nevada

Cohort 2:

- 1. Colorado
- 4. Maine
 - 5. Maryland
 - 6. Michigan

 - 8. North Dakota
 - 9. Ohio
 - 10. Wyoming



Process of Developing a Framework in Consortium Network

- # Establish internal stakeholders within SEA
 - Create an external stakeholder process to develop definition, principles, goals and strategies
- **#** Support strategies for States
 - Conduct Self-Assessment
 - Develop Project Management Plan
 - Coaching calls
- # Participate in Professional Development and Leadership Convenings
 - Equity and Cultural Responsiveness, Stakeholder Engagement, School Improvement and Student Outcomes, and Two-Generation Approach

Key Elements of Family Engagement Frameworks

- Purpose: How is the framework intended to be used in the state?
- **Definition:** What is meant by the term "family engagement?"
- Goals/Outcomes: What should effective family engagement achieve?
- Logic Model/Strategies: What are effective family engagement strategies and what is the connection between the strategies and state goals?
- **Standards:** What should individuals who work with families know and be able to do?
- **Exemplars:** Where in the state do you see family engagement being done well?
- Alignment to Legislation: What are the legislative requirements for family engagement and how does the framework help with compliance?
- Resources: What tools are available to support implementation?







Developing and Implementing Equitable and Culturally Sensitive Birth to Grade-12 Family Engagement Frameworks

Vito Borrello
Executive Director

NAFSCE

Why Family Engagement?

Studies show that family engagement leads to:

- Higher grades and test scores
- Enrollment in higher-level programs/classes
- Grade promotion and advanced credit accumulation
- Adaptation to school and improved attendance
- Better social skills and behavior
- On-time graduation and post-secondary matriculation

Henderson, A., & Mapp, K. (2002). A new wave of evidence: The impact of school, family, and community connections on student achievement. Austin, TX: Southwest Educational Development Laboratory.

School Improvement Outcomes

- Research from Anthony S. Bryk, 9th president of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, focus on the organizational redesign of schools and school systems and the integration of technology into schooling to enhance teaching and learning.
- He found that the following were essential to improving Chicago urban schools:
 - > A coherent instructional guidance system
 - > The school's professional capacity
 - Strong parent-community-school ties
 - > A student-centered learning climate
 - > Leadership that drives change

Current climate of school reform disregards importance of FSCE.

Professionals are isolated; relegated to low status.

Challenges to
Family, School & Community
Engagement (FSCE)

Few education organizations give FSCE priority.

Educators are unprepared to engage families.

Research confirms the need for greater teacher preparation around family engagement.

Just 33% of teachers surveyed reported having a satisfactory relationship with families.

(MetLife Survey of the American Teacher, 2008)

Gen Y teachers fear that their lack of preparation to engage families will lead to failure and burnout.

(Public Agenda Poll, 2011)

State Consortium Initiative: Overview

Establish family engagement coalitions in 17 states through two cohorts

Cohort 1 States: Arkansas, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina (July 2017 – December 2018)

Cohort 2 States: Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Wyoming

Partners:

- Council for Chief State School Officers
- NAFSCE
- The Policy Equity Group
- Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium
- Campaign for Grade Level Reading

The Policy Equity Group and NAFSCE provide Technical Assistance to states

NAFSCE is supporting a structure to sustain coalitions for long-term progress

Why are states developing family engagement frameworks?

- To communicate the importance of family engagement to state agencies,
 LEAs, schools, stakeholders, and parents
- To articulate a common set of family engagement goals across agencies, schools districts, and early childhood programs
- To use as a lens to assess family engagement practices and vet new laws and initiatives that have a family engagement component
- To use as a vehicle to organize family engagement resources and highlight successful family engagement strategies across the state

Implementing the Framework

SEA Capacity,
Collaboration &
Communication

Administering Educational Programs

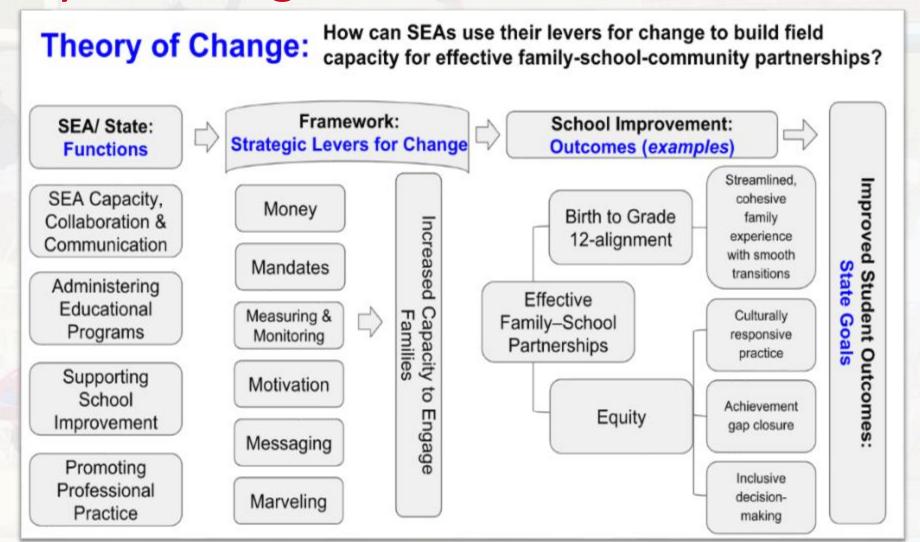
SEA/ State Functions

Promoting Professional Practice Supporting School Improvement SEAs use the Birth-to-Grade 12 Family
Engagement Framework to inform their work
to build field capacity for effective familyschool-community partnerships?

What are common elements of a family engagement Framework?

- Purpose: How is the framework intended to be used in the state?
- Definition: What is meant by the term "family engagement?"
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- Standards: What should individuals who work with families know and be able to do?
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The Role of a Family Engagement Framework: A Theory of Change



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How the Frameworks are developed...

Step 1
Self-Assessment

Step 2
Opportunity
Canvas

Step 3
Establish
State Coalition

Step 4
Framework
Development

Step 5
Opportunities
for Change

In Progress - State teams begin exploring their own policies and landscape to lay the gorund for identifying coalition stakeholders and key areas for deeper exploration and support.

Research- and practice-based policy review and interviews to explore current state practices, resulting in an Opportunity Canvas Report which will provide information regarding opportunities for improving family engagement at the SEA and LEA levels

Key stakeholders are identified and state coalition is established by SEA. SEA utilizes opportunity canvas to identify priority areas for development of a state framework for promoting and sustaining family engagement.

State coalitions and SEAs collaborate to develop a birth-grade 12 family engagement framework that creates a set of clear shared expectations for educational partnership.

Based on the
Opportunity Canvas
and State Framework,
SEAs and coalitions
begin to realize
changes to promote
strong family-schoolcommunity
partnerships.

CCSSO Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance Team

NAFSCE

Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium

Campaign for Grade Level Reading

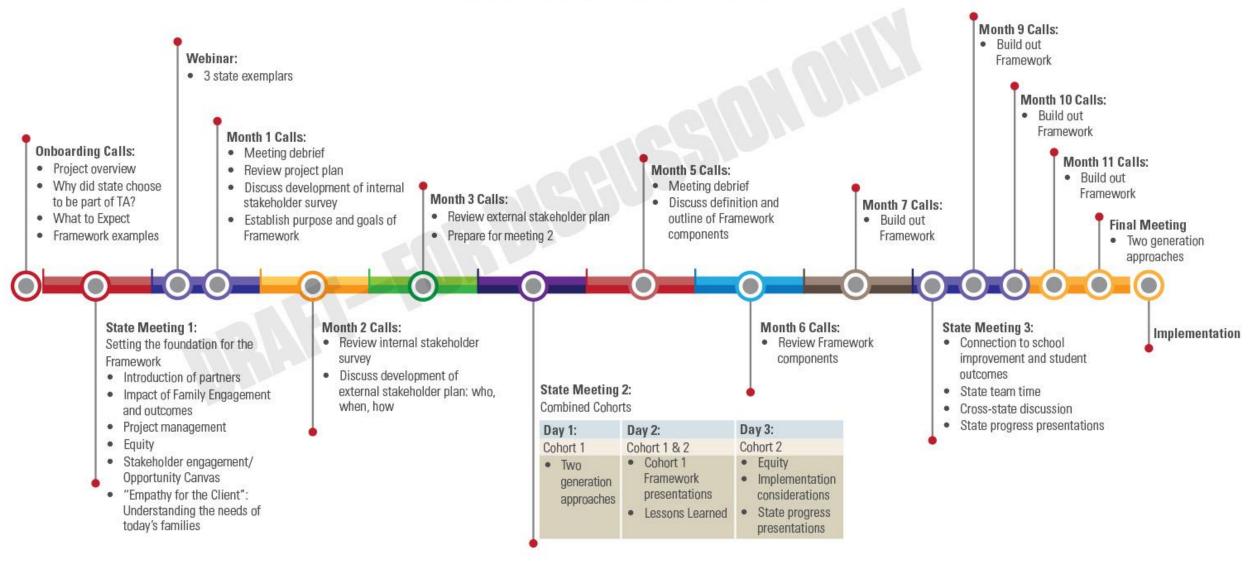
Policy Equity Group

Monthly Calls and Community of Practice Meetings

Support project management and provide substantive input

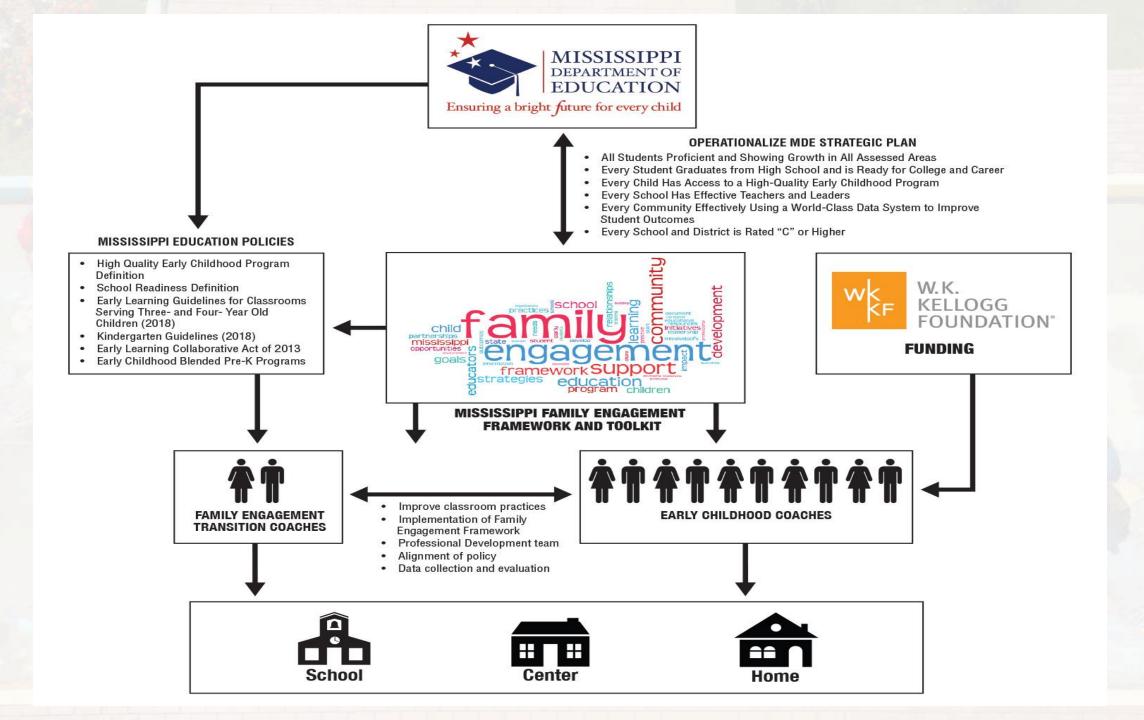
Review Framework drafts, facilitate state coalition meetings, and support stakeholder buy-in

DEVELOPING A BIRTH TO GRADE 12 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TIMELINE



States Participating in TA Model

Cohort I	Cohort II	
Arkansas	Colorado	Oklahoma
Connecticut	Illinois	Wyoming
Maryland	Kansas	
Massachusetts	Maine	
Mississippi	Michigan	
New York	Nevada	
Pennsylvania	North Dakota	
South Carolina	Ohio	



Considerations Going Forward...

- SEAs must be strategic and intentional when advancing family and community engagement
 - Frameworks provide a structure for a systematic, statewide approach
- Effective statewide family engagement requires a state infrastructure and building SEA capacity
- Communicating a vision and engaging stakeholders are vital
 - Cross-agency collaboration and broad stakeholder engagement are keys to success and sustainability
- Family and community engagement should be reflected in state accountability systems and quality assessments

Contact information

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Mississippi

Family Engagement Framework and Toolkit



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Mississippi Department of Education

VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community



STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS





Where is Mississippi?

Education communities

- 394 Kindergarten
- 107 Secondary
- 385 Combined
- 3 Charter
- 1400 Early care and learning centers
 - 279 Head Start centers

Child/Family impact

- 540,000
- Family engagement practices
 - ESSA
 - Title I
 - Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework

Best Practices

- Leadership support
- Begin with the end in mind
 - Aggressive timeline
 - Do your homework
- Momentum
 - Keep it moving
 - Reminders
- Focus
 - Small groups
 - Stakeholder groups
 - Definitions
 - Goal
 - Strategies
 - Plan in motion
 - Launch





Mississippi's Family Engagement Definitions

FAMILY is a fundamental social group in communities consisting of a child/ren and a parent, grandparent, guardian, caregiver, or any responsible individual invested in the educational success of a child.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT is an on-going, shared responsibility of families, educational programs, and communities for all student learning and academic achievement that continues from birth to young adulthood.

EQUITABLE means that families are empowered to work with educators, public officials, and community partners to remove any barriers that prevents them from being fully engaged in their child(ren)'s education. This includes access to ample opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills to become full and equal partners in that deliberate and intentional work.



Lessons Learned

Start yesterday

- Focus groups
- Families
- Schools

Stay the course

- Be strong
- Adjust as needed

Dedication to the project

- Momentum
- Balance with job responsibilities

Stronger together

Internal + External = Coalition

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FOCUS GROUP The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is working collaboratively to develop and launch a comprehensive Birth – 12th Grade Family Engagement Framework and Toolkit for use in educational programs across the state. The Family Engagement Focus Groups is bringing together families and community members to gain insight, guidance, and feedback on the work currently underway to draft Who: Community members, parents, grandparents, practitioners, school and district personnel with an interest in informing a family engagement framework at the local level are welcome to participate WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US! DATE: TIME: LOCATION CONTACT:







Focus groups

- What does family engagement mean to you?
- What role do you play as a leader in family engagement?
- How can you more effectively support participation in family engagement activities in your education community?
- What activities do you do to support and encourage the academic success of children and families?
- What are the barriers to getting families involved in family engagement?



Advice to others

- Focus on the families
- Begin with the end in mind
- SWOT
- Thought partner
- Research
- Build this for your state
- Make it achievable
- Stay the course
- Be flexible



Family Focus

- Meet families where they are
- System approach
- Outcome-based
- Build relationships
- It takes excellent schools, strong families, and healthy communities.





What is family engagement...

It isn't about the families that are engaged,

it is about families that

aren't engaged.



Questions









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South Carolina Family Engagement

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Family And Community Engagement

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State Demographics

- Population of around 5 million people
- Children under age 5 make up about 6% of the state population; children under 18 make up 22%
- Race/Ethnicity
 - White: 64%
 - African American: 27%
 - Hispanic or Latino: 6%
 - All others: 3%
- Approximately 27% of South Carolinians hold a bachelor's degree or higher; approximately 87% have at least a high school degree
- 16% of South Carolinians live below the poverty line; 22% of children live in families below the poverty line

Best Practices, Lessons Learned, and Advice

- Start with the end in mind. Have a plan that will support the team in moving forward.
- Time management is key. Developing a timeline and sticking to it is helpful.
- Ensuring the right people are at the planning table. Stakeholders from different sectors helped to bring about a common perspective.
 - -External stakeholders were from schools, districts, businesses, nonprofits. Government, Head Start, First Steps, faith based entities, adult education, special education, ESOL, etc.

How to get on the state board's agenda

- Have an approved document that has been vetted through stakeholders and the agency routing system.
- Reach out to the office contact to begin the process of the request to be placed on the board's agenda.
- Submit a form outline the request for board approval process.
- Present at the board meeting and request that the document be approved.

Best Practices for Family Engagement

Wins for South Carolina

- Defined family engagement collectively
- Established an internal Family Engagement roundtable
- Established a Family Engagement K-12 Framework and Toolkit
- Hosted 1st Annual FE Summit with keynote speakers: Molly M. Spearman, State Superintendent of Education and Dr. Joyce Epstein of the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University

Next Steps for South Carolina

- Work closely with the Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC) one of eleven states awarded the Statewide Family Engagement Center multi-year grant from USED
- Conduct regional trainings and technical assistance with schools on how to develop, implement, and sustain family engagement plans
- Review, Revise, Repeat always looking to improve

Parent and Family Engagement Additional Outcomes for Early Learning in SC

Research shows that parent and caregiver involvement is the number one predictor of early literacy success as well as future academic success.

- The Office of Early Learning and Literacy teamed with the Office of Virtual Education to create an online resources for families. *Supporting Early Literacy at Home: A Parents 'Guide* is an online resource designed to provide information for parents and caregivers so that they can support their children's early literacy development. The guide provides information and strategies that will equip parents and caregivers with tools to support children from birth through the beginning years of school. Each module includes a video introduction, resources to view, resources to read, and a place to reflect and respond.
- University of South Carolina received a multi-year grant to create a statewide family engagement center. The Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC) is being operated by the SC School Improvement Council and has partnered with the SCDE for its initiatives.



Contact Information

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Michigan









Noel Kelty, Early Intervention Manager/ Part C Coordinator, Office of Great Start KeltyN@Michigan.gov

Michigan Overview



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- 96,714 square miles
- GDP 508.905 billion
- College educated 39%
- Population 9,962,311
- Median income \$30,488

Progressive Practices

- Conducted 10 focus groups and utilized data to inform framework development.
- Developed family engagement stakeholder's committee inclusive of approximately 38 internal/internal stakeholders representing P-20.
- Continue to survey stakeholders to capture feedback on definition, principles, format, audience, and content.
- Family engagement framework and MiFamily document drafted, reviewed by 16+
 internal and external stakeholders and Technical Assistance centers (CCSSO,
 NAFSCE, CEELO, and the Equity Center).
- Working toward alignment with MDE top 3 priorities: Birth to Eight, Early Literacy, and Whole Child Whole School Whole Community approach.



Family, Educator, and Community Voice: Why Family Engagement Matters

"It makes me feel important when the schools asks my opinion." – Mom

"Meeting families at their level is important to me."
-High School Teacher

"We need to change the presumption. We need to start doing things with families, not to families." – Curriculum Director

"Nothing about us without us!" -Parent

"Family engagement should be what we are." – Community member

Family, Educator, and Community Voice: What isn't Working?



"Families are left out through badly communicated messages." —Parent



"Fathers feel ashamed to come to programs." – Parent



"Parents feel shamed or embarrassed to come to activities." – Community Member



"Having kids with special needs isn't the problem. How they are treated is the problem." -Parent

Lessons Learned

- SLOW DOWN! Everything takes longer than you think, but stakeholder engagement matters!
- Stakeholder engagement is vital to each step in the process

Stakeholder Engagement

- Primary stakeholders: Family Engagement Stakeholder's Committee. Established January 2018: Meet about once a month, either in-person or virtually; Respond to documents online or virtually
- ISD/LEA feedback: All documents vetted to contributing ISDs and LEAs for family feedback. Useful
 way to obtain family voice within their own context.
- Surveys: Used to garner opinion and feedback on content. Used with all developed content and documents.



MDE Family Engagement Definition

Family engagement is a collaborative relationship between families, educators, providers, and partners to support and improve the learning, development, and health of every learner.

Michigan Family Engagement Principles



Thank you!

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Table Discussion

- # Let's Assess!
- **#** Where are you in the process?



