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Parent and Family Engagement

Federal Requirements and Best Practices

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With us today…

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Our Focus

- Discuss the federal requirements for Parent and Family Engagement
- Share templates and examples of specific items
- Discuss Best practices
- Share resources and ideas for authentic Parent & Family Engagement

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Title I Overview

- The purpose of Title I is to provide all children **"significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps."**

- *Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.*

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Family Engagement

Schoolwide programs require key stakeholder engagement in the development of the plan.

We as consultants often encourage LEA's Go from "Including to Belonging"

Title I holds several other Parent and Family Engagement requirements.

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Family Engagement: Requirements

Specific Parent Engagement Policy

Annual Parent Meeting

Parent Engagement Plan Review

School Specific Policy and Compact

Evidence Based Activities

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Policy

Schools that receive Title I funds are expected to collaborate with families to develop and maintain a parent and family engagement policy

Should describe the school's approach to involve families in students' learning

Includes a **compact** expressing the partnerships among staff, caregivers, and students

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Compact

School’s must have an agreement in place that serves as the expectations for each teams/individuals role in the child’s education

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Annual Parent Meeting

- Each school served by Title I will convene an annual meeting
- All parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend
- Inform parents of their school's participation and the right of parents to be involved

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Evidence Based Activities

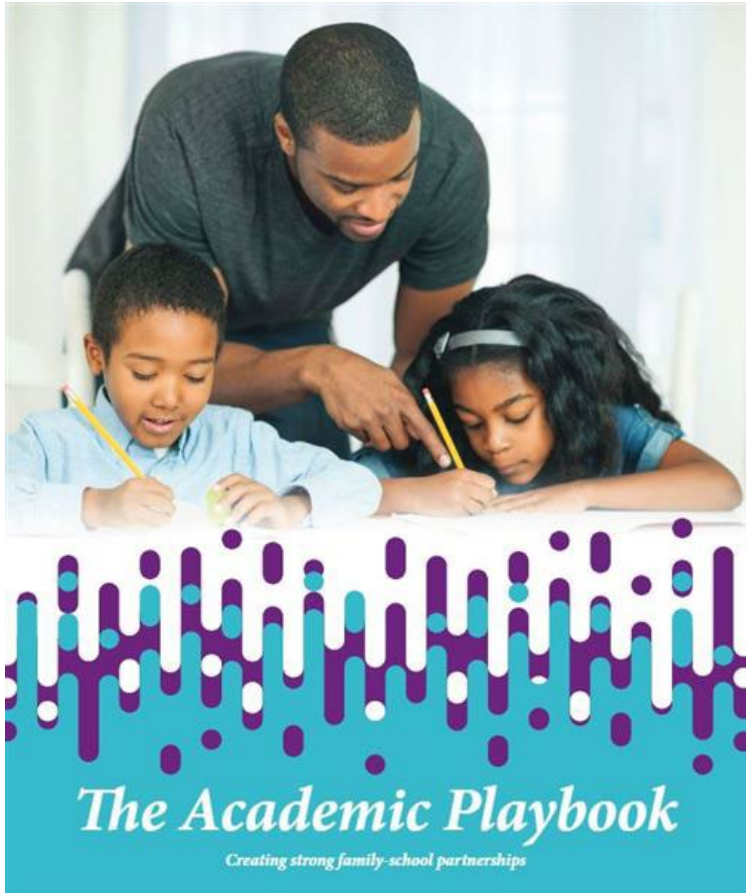
- School's must engage Families through Evidence Based Activities

- ❑ Examples Include:
- ❑ Volunteer Programs
- ❑ Liaisons/Advisory Teams
- ❑ Communication
- ❑ Materials/Supplies home

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The Academic Playbook

The Academic Playbook was created to empower parents/caregivers to ask the necessary questions regarding their child's academic progress and work collaboratively with teachers.



Office of Whole Child Supports

- Health
- Attendance
- Vulnerable youth populations
- Family engagement
- Student and school safety

ODEW Family Engagement Activities and Supports

1) Statewide Family Engagement Center Grant, in partnership with Ohio State University
2) Ohio Department of Education Family and Community Engagement Webpage
3) Ohio Student Voice Workgroup
4) Building Leadership Workgroup

Statewide Family Engagement Center Grant

- In October 2018, the Ohio State University, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education, was awarded a 5-year grant from the US Department of Education to create the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center. In 2023, this grant was extended for an additional 5 years.
- Dr. Barbara Boone is the Director of the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center.

Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center



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Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Family Engagement Webpage



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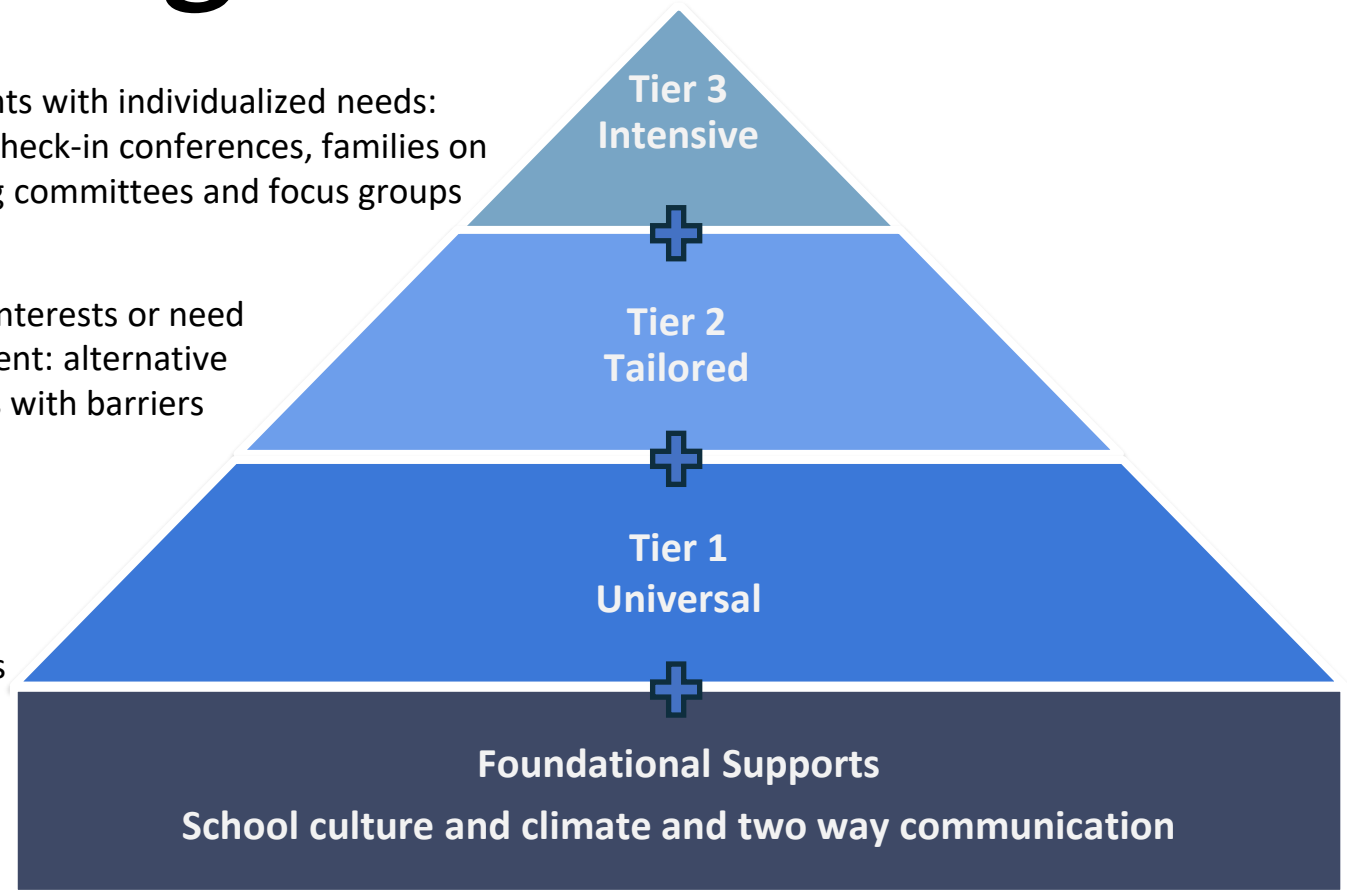
Considering MTSS Framework

Students with individualized needs: monthly check-in conferences, families on planning committees and focus groups

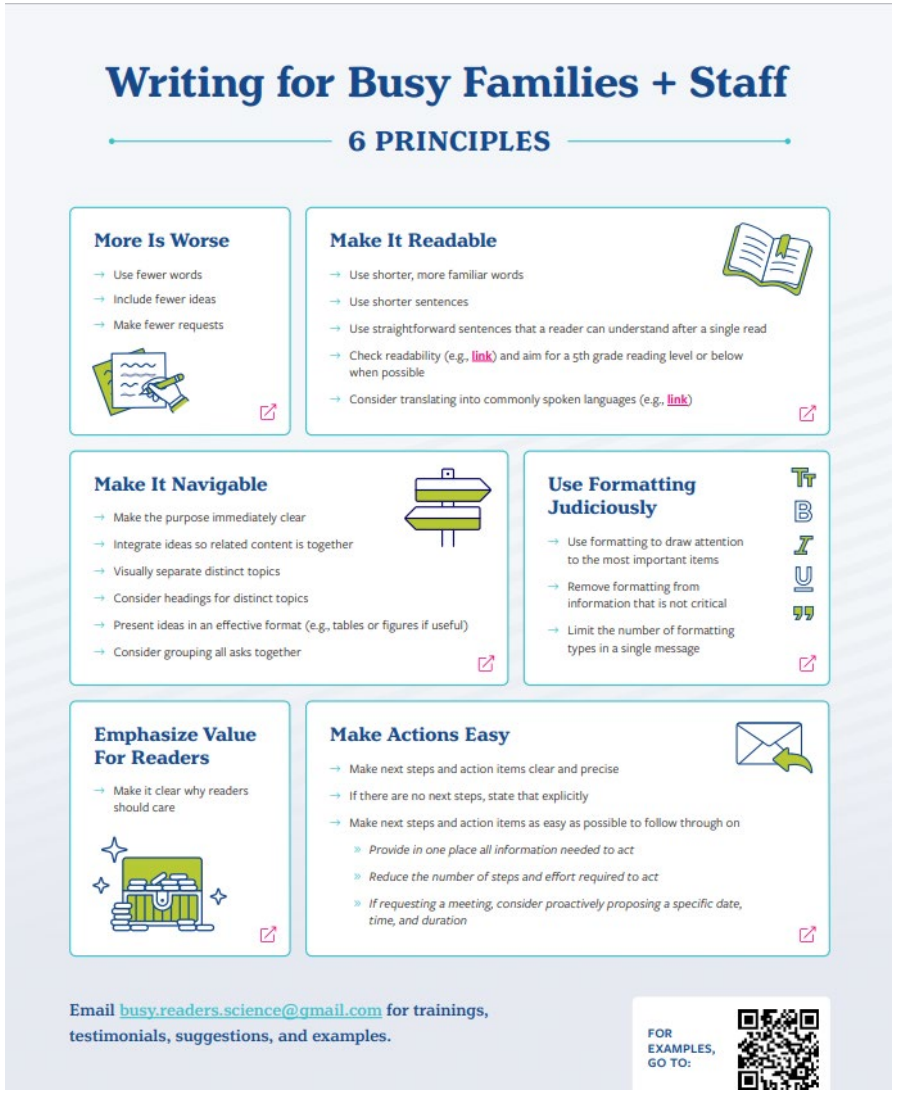
Families with similar interests or need for deeper engagement: alternative options for families with barriers

School and program wide supports accessible to all families: family teacher conferences, family surveys

All Students and Families



Tier 1: Communication best practices



Writing for Busy Families + Staff

6 PRINCIPLES

More Is Worse

- Use fewer words
- Include fewer ideas
- Make fewer requests

Make It Readable

- Use shorter, more familiar words
- Use shorter sentences
- Use straightforward sentences that a reader can understand after a single read
- Check readability (e.g., link) and aim for a 5th grade reading level or below when possible
- Consider translating into commonly spoken languages (e.g., link)

Make It Navigable

- Make the purpose immediately clear
- Integrate ideas so related content is together
- Visually separate distinct topics
- Consider headings for distinct topics
- Present ideas in an effective format (e.g., tables or figures if useful)
- Consider grouping all asks together

Use Formatting Judiciously

- Use formatting to draw attention to the most important items
- Remove formatting from information that is not critical
- Limit the number of formatting types in a single message

Emphasize Value For Readers

- Make it clear why readers should care

Make Actions Easy

- Make next steps and action items clear and precise
- If there are no next steps, state that explicitly
- Make next steps and action items as easy as possible to follow through on
  - *Provide in one place all information needed to act*
  - *Reduce the number of steps and effort required to act*
  - *If requesting a meeting, consider proactively proposing a specific date, time, and duration*

Email busy.readers.science@gmail.com for trainings, testimonials, suggestions, and examples.

FOR EXAMPLES, GO TO:

- Fewer words, fewer Ideas and fewer requests
- Short and more common words
- Clear purpose
- Draw attention through formatting
- Value, value, value!!
- Easy Action!

Communication Guidelines

- Identify and respect family preferences for home-school communication
- Personalize your conversation by addressing the parents by name
- Have “low-tech” and “high-tech” options for parents to receive information

LOW-TECH

1. Weekly folders for notices, memos, progress notes, schoolwork, and other two-way communications
2. School signs

HIGH-TECH

1. Internet video, Audiotapes / Podcasts, Website pages, Teacher Blogs, text messages, Electronic newsletters, Electronic student log
2. What are their accessibility needs?
3. Provide language translators and interpreters, as needed, for all communications with families

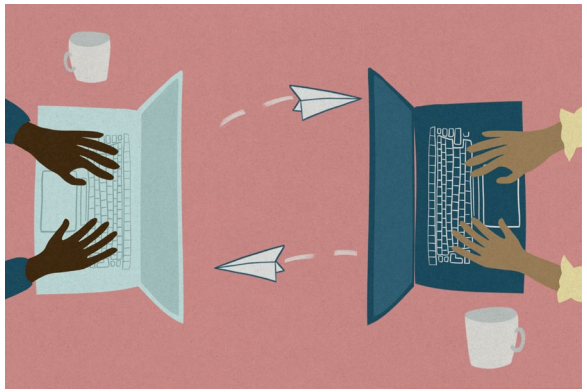
Communication Activities

Examples of types of communication we should prioritize:

- Highlight parent deadline on calendars
- Survey families annually
- Materials to prepare for conferences / meetings (guiding questions, checklist)

For Middle and High School:

- Teacher's criteria for report card grades
- How to interpret interim progress reports



Tier 2: Materials and Supplies being sent home

- Materials to support learning at home 5-Minute Family Literacy Routines – ALL Ohio (allohioliteracy.org)
- Dyslexia Communication Tools Dyslexia Communication Tools for Schools - Ohio's Statewide Family Engagement Center (osu.edu)

Tier 3: (Collaboration) Family Engagement Committee

- Members are school administrator or designee, teachers, parents, community partners, etc.
- Develops two-way communication strategy
- Plans Title IA Family Engagement activities and programs that are aligned to AAP priorities and linked to learning
- Ensures parent input in planning and decision making
- Works with families and community partners to create social events and programs which share resources and build a sense of community
- Creates volunteer opportunities which support student success
- Offers professional learning and programming to build capacity of educators and families

Parent Ambassadors

Parent Ambassadors in schools

- Must be a parent/legal guardian of a student at the school
- Part-time position, 15-25 hours a week
- Acts as a welcome-wagon to the school for new and returning parents
- Works to develop peer-to-peer networks
- Conducts Parent Cafes
- Works with staff to provide resources, supports, and programs



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District Parent Advisory Committee

- Representatives from every school in the district
- Meets quarterly with the CEO or members of the Executive Leadership Team
- Receive a $50 gift card for participation



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QUESTIONS?

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