



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Welcome to Family Engagement

(and discover the MA Family Engagement Framework!)

INFORMING, EDUCATING, EMPOWERING FAMILIES
617-236-7210 | www.fcsn.org | info@fcsn.org



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**FAMILIES
ARE THE KEY
TO FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT**

Family engagement is an intentional, authentic, respectful, and equal partnership between practitioners and families leading to positive results for children and youth.

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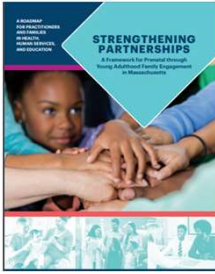
Why be engaged?

- Family engagement is crucial for healthy development of children and youth.
- Families, who are active and respected participants in child/youth development and learning, can help practitioners see new ways to build safe, welcoming, and trusting environments.
- Access to information about their children/youth's learning and development affects family members' knowledge, confidence, and advocacy skills.

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Download the Framework



The MA State Family Engagement Coalition representing 11 state agencies, that include education (DESE and EEC) and Health and Human Services developed these Frameworks to serve as a roadmap to family engagement for practitioners in education, health and human services.

<https://masfec.org/strengthening-partnerships/>

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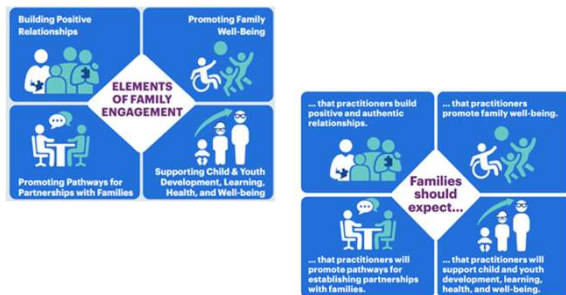
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Guiding Principles

- Each family is unique and all families represent diverse structures.
- Acknowledging and accepting the need to engage all families is essential for successful engagement of diverse families and includes recognizing the strengths that come from their diverse backgrounds.
- Building a respectful, trusting, and reciprocal relationship is a shared responsibility of families, practitioners, organizations, and systems.
- Families are their child's first and best advocate.
- Family engagement must be equitable.


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Building Positive Relationships

- welcoming, collaborative, and safe environments
- respect for cultural, religious, and traditional beliefs and customs
- opportunities to communicate perspectives, experiences, and dreams
- opportunities to share their ideas of child/youth development, learning, health, and well-being
- support to strengthen partnerships with other families

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Promoting Family Well-Being

- to bring their own definition of a community
- referral to the appropriate community partners
- opportunities for community engagement
- culturally and linguistically responsive services and resources to achieve their goals

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Promoting Pathways for Partnerships with Families

- opportunities to educate practitioners about themselves, their cultures, values, goals and needs
- participation in family support programs to develop/strengthen skills
- opportunities to lead community activities

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Supporting Child & Youth Development, Learning, Health, and Well-being



- resources and materials in their preferred languages
- opportunities to participate in workshops, support groups, and child/youth screenings in their primary languages
- to voice the barriers or challenges they face while participating in engagement opportunities and work collaboratively with practitioners to overcome these barriers

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Why Family Engagement?

Please take some time to watch this 7-minute video (you will not regret it):
 Linking Family Engagement to Learning: Dr. Karen Mapp's '8 for 8'



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDPY1t8E6Cg&index=4&list=PLqKWVgyKYrPZ2akiw_c70NPRx6OrR7Q1B

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Resources


Massachusetts Statewide Family Engagement Center - <https://masfec.org/>

National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement - <https://nafsce.org/>

DESE Office of Student and Family Support
[Student and Family Support \(SFS\) - Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

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THANK YOU

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