Lessons from the Field: Family & Community Engagement and Returning to In-Person Instruction

APRIL 28, 2021
To access information and archived materials from previous Lessons from the Field webinars, go to: https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/lessons-field-webinar-series
Logistics

Zoom Control Panel

Technical Issues

For assistance during the webinar, please contact Shoshana Rabinovsky at srabinovsky@air.org.

This webinar is being recorded and will be archived at the following location:

The content of this presentation does not necessarily represent the policy or views of the U.S. Department of Education, nor does it imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education.
Initial Polling Questions

1. Are you a:
   - Teacher
   - School staff
   - School administrator
   - Education agency staff
   - Family/community engagement staff
   - Other (Please specify in the chat.)

2. In your community, are instruction and supports being delivered:
   - In-person
   - Hybrid
   - Virtually
   - Not applicable
Speakers

Christian Rhodes
Chief of Staff, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Jessica Cardichon
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, U.S. Department of Education

Tina Hike-Hubbard
Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools (MD)

Brandon Pinkney
Principal, Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School, Baltimore, MD

Bios for the speakers are archived at the following location:
Agenda

1. Introduction and Logistics
2. Strategies for Engaging Families and Communities When Returning to In-Person Instruction and Meeting All Students’ Needs
3. Panel Discussion
4. Questions and Answers
5. Wrap Up & Closing
Strategies for Engaging Families and Communities When Returning to In-Person Instruction and Meeting All Students’ Needs

Jessica Cardichon
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, U.S. Department of Education
• Address the disproportionate toll of COVID-19:
  ▪ Communicate school health and safety measures and prevention strategies.
  ▪ Solicit input and answer questions.

• Use strategies that support meaningful community engagement:
  ▪ Surveys
  ▪ Virtual town halls
  ▪ Active and specific outreach (partnerships with trusted CBOs)
  ▪ Access for English learners and students and adults with disabilities

• Communicate data on civil rights and related requirements.
• Conduct active and specific engagement with underserved families.

• Recognize different levels of trust.

• Implement SEL in culturally and racially responsive ways.

• Remove the stigma of mental health.

• Create safe and inclusive environments.

• Close the digital divide.

• Publicly report equity data and ARP ESSER plans.
Panel Discussion

LESSONS FROM THE FIELD
Lessons from the Field: Family & Community Engagement and Returning to In-Person Learning

Tina Hike-Hubbard
Chief of Communications, Engagement and Enrollment

April 28, 2021
Student Enrollment & Demographics 2020-2021

165 schools/programs
$1.39 billion budget
4,912 teachers
1:16 teacher to student ratio

City Schools is a CEP district - we provide free breakfast and lunch to all students and do not collect applications for free and reduced-priced meals, with the result that low-income status is under-reported (58%)

9.6% EL Learners
14.6% Students with disabilities

African American: 76.9%
Hispanic/Latino: 14.4%
White: 7.6%
Asian: 0.8%
American Indian: 0.2%
Pacific Islander: 0.1%

38,195 17,820 21,841 77,856
Pre K-5th grade Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12
Our Call to Action…

Helping parents and families become stronger partners in the education of their children.

Mission and Theory of Action…

To develop and cultivate effective school, family, and community relationships and leverage those relationships as key resources in the success of students and schools.
Family Engagement Structure and Supports

CORE FOCUS AREAS

Family and Community Engagement (FCE) School Supports

All services and supports are aligned to the district’s new strategy for Family Engagement, the Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships, FCE Policy, and Title I Parent and Family Engagement requirements.

All FCE Specialists and school teams are provided content expertise and support from the Family Engagement Director, Bilingual FCE Specialist, FCE Staff Policy Specialist, FCE Evaluator, and Capacity Building Specialist.

- **Principals and School Leaders**
  - Coaching, strategy, professional development, and guidance around implementation of the FCE Policy and Title I PFE for schools

- **Teachers and Staff**
  - Professional development, and guidance on how to build and sustain strong academic partnerships with families linked to student success

- **Parent Leadership and Connections**
  - Support groups, training, coaching, guidance for parent leaders to foster shared ownership, build community, and share best practices

- **Organized Parent Groups and Advisory Teams**
  - Capacity building to strengthen parent advocacy, organizing, and support leadership, operations, systems, and protocols linked to school improvement

- **School-Based FCE Liaisons**
  - Professional development, coaching, technical assistance, and support with implementing Title I PFE/FCE policy requirements—FCE plan, school performance plan, school-parent compact development, listening tours, and family learning opportunities

- **Parents and Families**
  - Capacity building, Title I rights and responsibilities, two-way communication, parent-teacher collaboration, home-school partnerships and family learning opportunities linked to student success

- **School Family Councils and FCE Committees**
  - Targeted supports, training and coaching on decision making and advocacy, school goals and priorities (budget engagement, principal selection, school portfolios, academic progress, and school improvement)

- **Data Informed Family Engagement**
  - Assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of FCE at the school-level (listening tours, focus groups, parent survey promotion/distribution), identifying and addressing barriers to engagement

Working collaboratively to help our families become stronger partners in the education of their children.
Family Engagement District Level Initiatives

**Parent Support:**
School-Based Parent Cafés

**Dual Capacity Building:**
Training and Workshops for Parents, Families and Staff

**Decision Making and Advocacy:**
Relaunching School-Family Councils

**Enhanced Supports:**
Dedicated supports and staff for Title I schools

**Evaluation and Assessment:**
Family and Community Engagement

**Family Learning Resources:**
Bmore Family Learning Kits
Community Engagement

Strengthen relationships with neighborhoods and community-based organizations to increase opportunities for collaboration and stakeholder engagement that support positive outcomes for students and families.

**Neighborhoo d Outreach**
- Connecting neighborhood assets and resources to schools.
  - Community Ambassador Program
  - CEO Community Conversations

**Community Schools**
- Providing a unique set of partnerships between the school and community-based resources designed to support student success.

**Partnerships & Volunteers**
- Strategically aligning partner resources to support district and school priorities.

**Youth Engagement**
- Elevating student voice, leadership, agency and representation in schools and the district.
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Panel Discussion

LESSONS FROM THE FIELD
Participant Questions and Answers
3. Select the topic(s) for which you feel additional information is needed. (Select all that apply.)

- Effective communication strategies that build trust and allow you to reach various sub-groups in your community
- Resources available to strengthen family & community outreach
- Resources for families and community members on mitigation strategies for home and school
- Reducing anxiety among caregivers and community members related to returning to in-person instruction
- Trauma-sensitive responses to families and community members
- Other (Please specify in the chat box.)
Feedback Form

HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/LFTF_SESSION3
Thank You!

Should you have any questions, please contact us at NCSSLE@air.org or 800-258-8413. We are happy to help!

NCSSLE Website
https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov

Best Practices Clearinghouse
https://bestpracticesclearinghouse.ed.gov/