



Family and Community Engagement

What:

Community engagement means the partnership between members of the community and schools that may share resources and volunteer to support student well-being and learning development.

Family and community engagement encompasses a number of approaches to authentically and meaningfully engage communities and families in district and school processes.

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Defer
Keeping Communities Updated	Receiving Community Input	Meaningfully Engaging Community Voice	Collaborating and Sharing Power with Communities	Communities Drive and Own the Work

Who:

Tribal members

School volunteers: PTAs, PTOs, parent clubs, site councils, and boosters

School staff: certified, non certified, board members

Higher education institutions, preschools, and child care providers

Family: including legal guardians and extended family members

Community leaders and organizations, local businesses, faith-based organizations

Where:

Family and Community Engagement generally occurs at the school site, though in partnering with community organizations and businesses, other locations within the community may be appropriate.

When:

Engagement should happen year round. Each type of engagement will happen at different frequencies.

Why:

Family engagement in schools contributes to positive student outcomes, including improved child and student achievement, decreased disciplinary issues, improved parent-teacher and teacher-student relationships, and improved school environment (Youth.gov).

How:

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Defer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Open houses • Presentations • Billboards or school electronic boards • Videos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input sessions • Focus groups • Empathy interviews • Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration or engagement with community organizing and community voices • House meetings • Interactive workshops & forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOUs with Community-based organizations • Leadership Development • Resources and funding allocated for community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-driven planning • Student or Parent/Family led community forums to assess challenges and develop solutions

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Defer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media posts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with accessibility and safety considerations • Student & Parent/Family Advisory Committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> organizing • Collaborative design and facilitation of community forums to ensure voices, safety, and accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus building • Participatory Action Research and Community-driven initiatives • Participatory budgeting • Community schools

[Community and Family Engagement Standards \(ARM chapter 55\)](#)

The LEA must provide a comprehensive family engagement policy aligned to meet the following goals:

- (i) families actively participate in the life of the school and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class;
- (ii) families and school staff engage in regular, two-way meaningful communication about student learning;
- (iii) families and school staff continuously collaborate to support student learning and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively;
- (iv) families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated equitably and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success;
- (v) families and school staff partner in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs; and
- (vi) families and school staff collaborate with members of the community to connect students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.