



NDE-ESU Family Engagement Input Sessions

2019



Alphabet Opener - 5 H's

- Create a “tent” the by folding the paper horizontally (like a letter)
- Write your name on the front
- Write a **H** in each corner on the back and one in the middle
- Each **H** will stand for:
 - HISTORY - Something you would like to share about yourself
 - HOBBY - Something you enjoy doing when not working
 - HAPPENING - Something fun or interesting in your life right now
 - HOLIDAY - Your favorite holiday and why
 - HOPE - Your hope for the work around the topic of School-Family-Community Engagement

Meeting goals



- Begin discussions that will serve as the foundation of a Nebraska School-Family-Community Engagement Framework
- Support schools in strengthening family/community engagement efforts

Why is family engagement important?



Research supports that when families are engaged and involved in schools, increased student learning results.

- Student's grades go up.
- They attend school more regularly.
- They are more likely to enroll in higher-level programs.
- They are more likely to graduate and go on to college.
- They are more excited and positive about school and learning.
- They have fewer discipline issues inside and outside school.

Why is family engagement important?



- Requirements in ESSA

<http://www.esc16.net/upload/page/0463/docs/Stafford%201%20Over%20view%20of%20Parental%20Involvement%20Under%20ESEA%205262016.pdf>

- Identified in AQuESTT

<https://aquestt.com/tenets/>

- NE State Board of Education Strategic Vision and Direction

<https://nebraskaeducationvision.com/goals-and-outcomes/positive-partnerships-relationships-success/>

- Emphasis in current initiatives across NDE programs (required or best practice)
- Research regarding its connection to student engagement and student success in school



Welcome and Introductions

Answer the questions:

- What does family engagement mean to you?
- What does meaningful family engagement look like?



Defining Family Engagement in Nebraska

Look at the two definitions provided at your table.

Each person reflect:

- What do you like about each definition and why?
- What should we avoid?

Discuss at your table and summarize on wall charts.



Defining Family Engagement in Nebraska

Each group share:

- What did you like about the definitions you read?
- What should we avoid?



Defining Family Engagement in Nebraska

Think back on your responses to the two reflection questions posed earlier.

What else is important to include in our state definition?



Resources and Model Practices to Share

Working lunch:

Identify model practices and resources that could be shared with school teams across the state.

Chart responses from your small group discussion.

Share with large group.



Other Recommendations

What are your recommendations regarding important elements that should be included in the Nebraska framework?

(Examples from other states are in the folder on your table.)

Letter of Commitment



1. Write a letter of commitment to yourself regarding what you want to remember from this discussion and what you will share with others when you return to your school or community. Indicate if you are willing to be part of continuing conversations and work groups.
2. Address an envelope to yourself.
3. Letters will be mailed to you this fall with a summary of the conversations from across the ESU input sessions.



Thank you for your time and important contributions to the development of a Nebraska school-family-community framework.