
360-DEGREE FAMILY of FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Wrapping School, Home and the Community around Student Achievement Outcomes!

A Professional Learning Illuminate Series for Family Engagement Professionals
The Georgia Department of Education & Bright from the Start, Division for Early Childcare and Learning

Putting the Plan Together! Now that you have all the tools, develop a plan on how to reach a full circle of accountability and sustainability for family engagement by activating a synergy of partners from Pre-K to post secondary to improve student achievement.

What Are the Key Components of a Plan?

1. GOAL: A specific statement of an intended outcome.

*When setting goals they should be **SMART**:*

- Specific
- Measurable
- Attainable
- Relevant
- Time-Bound

2. OBJECTIVE: A subgoal that identifies a short-term, measurable step within a designated period of time that is moving toward achieving a long-term goal.

3. STRATEGY: A broad internal plan of action that will aid in achieving a particular goal.

A strategy is the logical approach that will help achieve the plan's goal. The general plan of action should be described, but avoid identifying specific activities.

4. INITIATIVE: A program, project, or process that assists in implementing a particular strategy.

A plan of action or action steps are developed for each initiative.

5. OUTCOME: A measure that examines the effectiveness of a specific initiative.

It is important to make sure that selected outcome measures truly relate to the initiative, the corresponding strategy, and ultimately the goal.

How does this all work together? Session 1 introduced the crosswalk for parent programs. Session 2 focused on the first part of developing your plan for effective family engagement by examining the goal, objectives, and major strategies. Session 3 looked at how to distinguish between initiatives and actions as well as explained how each could be developed to meet your school or districts needs. Session 4, the final session, brought all this work together by focusing on how to develop measurable outcomes that truly show the link to student achievement!

What Is the Goal?

STATE GOAL: To increase the high school graduation rate, decrease the high school dropout rate, and increase the post-secondary enrollment rate.

The number one goal for all of P – 16 education in Georgia is the same. Therefore, each of your family engagement programs should adopt this goal as well, no matter if you are working in Pre-K, Elementary School, Middle School, or High School. We all need to work together to support this goal.

What Is the Objective?

OBJECTIVE: Increase student achievement by engaging and empowering parents to be actively involved in their children's education across all grade levels.

This is the objective we have selected for state purposes as it speaks to our work in family engagement and in turn moves us towards the long-term state goal. In your work, we ask that you consider using this objective, or develop your own that more closely captures your local school or district's subgoal for family engagement.

What Are the Strategies?

STRATEGY 1: Embed sustainable family, school, and community engagement initiatives in school improvement work to increase student achievement.

STRATEGY 2: Increase communication between home, school and community through training and collaborative activities that meet the needs of families.

STRATEGY 3: Build capacity and leadership by activating the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

These strategies have been selected to focus your work on family engagement based on what works from research. Each strategy is tied to the Crosswalk for Parent Programs discussed in session 1. Strategy 1 is centered on student achievement, Strategy 2 incorporates Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and the Strengthening Families Protective Factors, and Strategy 3 looks at the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

In your work we ask that you use the above strategies, but also feel free to add additional strategies that capture your local school or district's work for family engagement. Remember though that a strategy is the logical approach that will help achieve the plan's goal. The general plan of action should be described but avoid identifying specific activities.

What Are the Initiatives?

Initiatives need to explain the work being done to implement one of the three state strategies (or one of the extra strategies your school or district developed.) The state does not set initiatives for you, as the programs, projects or processes vary by your school and district needs. Please remember that initiatives should be focused, but not so detailed that they describe an actual activity. For example, an initiative under one of the strategies could be *Provide Professional Development and Learning Opportunities to Families*. However, the actual workshops, sessions, and leadership academies conducted throughout the year would not be initiatives. They would be the actual activities captured under the initiative and would be included on the action plan. *In your work, we ask that you use no more than three initiatives per strategy.*

Action Plans

Action Plans are the driving force behind initiative work. They help organize the list of activities needed to be carried out, help recognize the resources required for the activity to be effective, and help monitor the progress of the activity in order to achieve the desired outcomes of the initiatives. Action Plans are fluid and can be updated along the way with additional activities as they come up or edited as changes occur. *In your work, you may have as many activities as needed for each initiative.*

Creation of initiatives and development of your action plan requires the most work in the planning process. The hard work will pay off in the end though as you will have a detailed, systematic, and sustainable family engagement plan that will impact student achievement in your schools or districts!

What Are the Outcomes?

To reach the state's goal, outcomes that measure family engagement in achievement must be obtained. Current data collected such as the number of parents attending workshops, parent feedback on surveys or evaluations, and personal contact with families offers important information regarding what families like or need. However, this data does not show the link of family engagement to student achievement. It is not enough to say that parents are involved, parents must be engaged for student achievement to increase and outcomes help provide the evidence needed! The state does not set outcomes for you, as they must measure the effectiveness of specific initiatives that your school and district have created based on individual need. Please remember that outcomes should be supported by *qualitative and quantitative data*. Think outside the box! Get creative! Outcomes relate to the overall initiative, not the individual activities on your action plans, so think broad and think big! *In your work, you must have at least one outcome measure for each initiative.*