



Lornshill Academy

Family Engagement



United in Effort

Respect

Integrity

Compassion

Goal: To establish and maintain a robust, sustainable, and inclusive family engagement program that aligns with the school's Family Engagement Policy, fostering positive student outcomes.

Phase 1: Foundation & Planning (Months 1-3)

- **1.1 Policy Dissemination and Understanding:**
 - Conduct staff training sessions to ensure thorough understanding of the policy's aims, objectives, and implementation strategies.
 - Develop clear and accessible communication materials (e.g., brochures, website content, newsletters) to distribute the policy to families.
 - Host introductory meetings for families to explain the policy and answer questions.
- **1.2 Needs Assessment and Resource Allocation:**
 - Conduct surveys and focus groups to gather baseline data on current family engagement levels and identify specific needs and barriers.
 - Allocate resources (e.g., personnel, budget, technology) to support the implementation of the policy.
 - Establish a dedicated Family Engagement Team (or designate a point of contact) to oversee implementation and provide support.
- **1.3 Communication Infrastructure:**
 - Establish clear and consistent communication channels (e.g., school website, email, messaging apps, physical notice boards).
 - Develop a communication calendar outlining key events, deadlines, and communication strategies.
 - Ensure all communications are accessible to diverse families, including translation services and alternative formats.

Phase 2: Implementation & Engagement (Months 4-12)

- **2.1 Home-Based Learning Support:**

- Develop and provide resources and workshops for families to support student learning at home (e.g., homework help, reading strategies, online learning tools).
- Share curriculum information and learning objectives with families regularly.
- Organize "learning at home" events and workshops.
- **2.2 Home/School Partnership Enhancement:**
 - Implement a system for regular and meaningful communication between teachers and families (e.g., parent-teacher conferences, progress reports, online communication platforms).
 - Create opportunities for families to participate in school activities and events (e.g., volunteer programs, classroom visits, school performances).
 - Establish a feedback mechanism for families to provide input on school programs and policies.
- **2.3 Family Representation & Inclusion:**
 - Establish a parent/family council or committee to represent family perspectives in school decision-making.
 - Develop strategies to address barriers to family engagement (e.g., childcare, transportation, language support).
 - Implement culturally responsive practices to ensure all families feel welcome and included.
- **2.4 Community Engagement & Resource Utilization:**
 - Develop partnerships with community organizations to provide additional resources and support for families.
 - Organize community events and workshops to promote family engagement and lifelong learning.
 - Invite community members to share their expertise with students and families.

Phase 3: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuous Improvement (Ongoing)

- **3.1 Data Collection and Analysis:**
 - Collect data on family engagement activities and outcomes (e.g., attendance at events, survey responses, student achievement data).
 - Analyse data to identify areas of success and areas for improvement.
 - Regularly administer the Parental Involvement & Engagement (PIE) Census, or equivalent.
- **3.2 Feedback and Evaluation:**
 - Solicit feedback from families, staff, and students on the effectiveness of the family engagement program.
 - Conduct regular evaluations of program activities and strategies.
 - Organize focus groups to gain deeper insight from families.
- **3.3 Continuous Improvement:**
 - Use evaluation findings to make adjustments to the family engagement program.
 - Develop and implement action plans to address identified areas for improvement.
 - Regularly review and update the Family Engagement Policy to ensure it remains relevant and effective.
 - Celebrate successes and share best practice.

Key Success Factors:

- Strong leadership support.
- Dedicated and trained staff.
- Effective communication.
- Meaningful family involvement.
- Data-driven decision-making.
- Culturally responsive practices.
- Consistent and persistent application of the strategy.

When looking at a strategy for implementing a family engagement policy, it's crucial to understand the roles of the various stakeholders involved. Here's a breakdown of those roles:

1. School Leadership (Principals, Vice Principals, School Boards):

- **Vision and Support:**
 - Providing the overarching vision and commitment to family engagement.
 - Allocating resources (financial, personnel, time) for implementation.
 - Championing the policy and ensuring it's integrated into the school's overall strategic plan.
- **Accountability:**
 - Monitoring the effectiveness of the family engagement program.
 - Holding staff accountable for implementing the policy.
 - Using data to drive continuous improvement.

2. Teachers and School Staff:

- **Direct Engagement:**
 - Building positive relationships with families.
 - Communicating regularly and effectively about student progress.
 - Creating welcoming and inclusive classroom environments.
 - Providing resources and support to families to help their children learn at home.
 - Implementing the communication strategies that are set out in the policy.
- **Collaboration:**
 - Working collaboratively with families to address student needs.
 - Participating in professional development related to family engagement.

3. Families (Parents, Caregivers):

- **Active Participation:**
 - Engaging in their child's education both at home and at school.
 - Communicating with teachers and school staff.
 - Providing feedback on school programs and policies.
 - Volunteering and participating in school events.
- **Advocacy:**
 - Advocating for their child's educational needs.
 - Representing the perspectives of families in school decision-making.

4. Family Engagement Team/Designated Point of Contact:

- **Coordination:**
 - Coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the family engagement program.
 - Facilitating communication between families and school staff.
 - Organizing family engagement events and workshops.
- **Support:**
 - Providing support and resources to families.
 - Addressing barriers to family engagement.
 - Data collection and analysis.

5. Community Organizations:

- **Partnerships:**
 - Collaborating with schools to provide additional resources and support for families.
 - Offering programs and services that support student learning and family well-being.
 - Providing expertise.
- **Resource Sharing:**
 - Sharing resources and information with families.

Key Considerations:

- **Shared Responsibility:** Effective family engagement requires a shared responsibility among all stakeholders.
- **Two-Way Communication:** Open, honest, and respectful communication is essential.
- **Cultural Competence:** Schools must be culturally competent and responsive to the needs of diverse families.

By clearly defining the roles of each stakeholder and fostering a collaborative environment, schools can create a strong and effective family engagement program that benefits all students.