



Partnering with Families for Student Success



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Time Frame 50-60 minutes

Essential Question(s)

How can our school partner with families to support students' postsecondary pathways?

Summary

In this session, participants reflect on how they can partner with families to help students succeed in postsecondary education. Participants start with a reflection survey on family engagement, then work through family scenarios that focus on discovering each family's strengths and looking for opportunities where they can support families. They dive into research about family engagement and postsecondary readiness. The session wraps up by having participants focus on their strengths and ways they successfully impacted families, as well as how their strengths can help leverage areas of growth.

Learning Goals

- Participants will reflect on their areas of strength and growth related to family engagement.
- Participants will identify the strengths and challenges of families to support them in their understanding of postsecondary pathways.
- Participants will examine research and identify a strategy they would like to implement to increase family engagement in their school.

Attachments

- [Family Engagement Scenarios—Partnering with Families for Student Success.docx](#)
- [Family Engagement Scenarios—Partnering with Families for Student Success.pdf](#)
- [Five Roles Families Play to Accelerate Student Learning—Partnering with Families for Student Success.pdf](#)
- [Note Catcher—Partnering with Families for Student Success.docx](#)
- [Note Catcher—Partnering with Families for Student Success.pdf](#)
- [Partnering with Families for Student Success Research Brief—Partnering with Families for Student Success.pdf](#)
- [Presentation Slides—Partnering with Families for Student Success.pptx](#)

Materials

- Presentation slides (attached)
- Partnering with Families for Student Success Research Brief (attached; print two-sided; one per participant)
- Family Engagement Scenarios (attached; print 11x17)
- Note Catcher (attached; one per participant)
- Five Roles Families Play to Accelerate Student Learning (attached and linked; photocopy or print in color; one per participant)
- Chart Paper (one for each Family Engagement Scenario)
- Markers
- Laptops (one per participant)

10 minutes

Engage

Facilitator's Note: Session Preparation

Prior to starting the session create a [Mentimeter](https://www.mentimeter.com/) for the Engage section of the professional development. Go to <https://www.mentimeter.com/> and create a Menti with two multiple choice questions. The first question is "What is your area of strength?" with the following four options: Asset-Based Beliefs about Families, Relationship Building and Establishing Trust, Ongoing Communication Methods, and Academic Partnering. The second question is "What is your area of growth?" with the following four options: Asset-Based Beliefs about Families, Relationship Building and Establishing Trust, Ongoing Communication Methods, and Academic Partnering. Add the join code to **slide 6**.

Day of Presentation:

Place the five **Family Engagement Scenarios** as posters around the room. Depending on your group size, you might consider more than one set of posters. For each poster you plan to use, create an upside down T template on chart paper. Label the left side Strengths, label the right side Challenges, and under the bottom line label a section Family Role. Hang the chart paper next to each Family Scenario.

Introduce the session and presenters using **slide 2**. Display **slides 3** and **4** to introduce the essential question and learning objectives.

Display **slide 5** and introduce the [Flamboyant Foundation's Family Engagement Assessment Tool](#). Inform participants that in this survey they will provide some details about themselves, then respond to 29 Likert-scale items by ranking their level of agreement with the statements. Upon completion of the assessment, participants will be directed to a screen with their results. Results will include an area of strength and an area of growth across four domains of Family Engagement: Asset-Based Beliefs about Families, Relationship Building and Establishing Trust, Ongoing Communication Methods, and Academic Partnering. Each area is linked to a PDF document to assist participants in learning more about these two domains of Family Engagement. Encourage them to also download and bookmark their results for an activity later in this professional development and for future reference. Have participants navigate to the shortened url on the slide and begin the survey.

Facilitator's Note: Alignment to Job Role

While this assessment is designed for classroom teachers, you will likely have other education professionals in your session who do not provide classroom instruction. A few of the assessment items make specific reference to "my class" or "my classroom." Encourage participants to think about the question more broadly, replacing the classroom verbiage with "my school" or "my practice."

Once participants have finished the survey, pass out the **Note Catcher** handout (attached) and ask participants to record their Area of Strength and Area of Growth on it.

Display **slide 6** and have participants join the Menti using the code on the slide. Have participants answer the following two questions:

- *What is your area of strength?*
- *What is your area of growth?*

Inform the participants that their responses are anonymous. Once all responses are in, take a minute to discuss the areas that are most common in both strengths and growth.

20 minutes

Explore

Facilitator's Note: Session's Goal

One of the major goals of this session is to shift the participants' focus from deficit-based perceptions to assets-based perceptions about families. Some school personnel may feel that factors like food and shelter insecurity are mostly outside of their control. While this may be true, it's important for the participants to persist in engagement efforts by leveraging each family's strengths and assets and addressing challenges to involve them in supporting their child's postsecondary readiness.

Display **slide 7** and, based on the total number of participants, invite participants to organize themselves into groups of four or five individuals. Inform participants that they will rotate to all five scenarios. You will be doing a modified version of the [Chalk Talk](#) and [Gallery Walk](#) instructional strategies. Provide each participant a marker for this activity.

For rotation 1, display **slide 8**. Ask participants to read their scenario silently to themselves. After reading, participants will silently list, draw, or visually represent the strengths or assets that the family possesses. Once participants understand the directions, start the [3 minute timer](#) on the slide.

Display **slide 9** for rotation 2 and have participants rotate to the next poster. Ask participants to read their scenario silently to themselves. After reading, participants will discuss the strengths/assets that have already been identified by the previous group. They will place a star by any that they agree with and/or add any that were not previously listed. Once participants understand the directions, start the [2 minute timer](#) on the slide.

Display **slide 10** for rotation 3 and have participants rotate to the next poster. Ask participants to read their scenario silently to themselves. After reading, participants will discuss the strengths/assets that have already been identified by the previous group. They will place a star by any that they agree with and/or add any that were not previously listed. Start the 2 minute timer on the slide when you are ready to begin.

Display **slide 11** for rotation 4 and have participants rotate to the next poster. Ask participants to read their scenario silently to themselves. After reading, participants will silently list, draw, or visually represent the challenges the families are experiencing that may impact students' postsecondary readiness. Start the 3 minute timer on the slide when you are ready to begin.

Display **slide 12** for rotation 5 and have participants rotate to the last poster. Ask participants to read their scenario silently to themselves. After reading, participants will discuss the challenges that have already been identified by the previous group. They will place a star by any that they agree with and/or add any that were not previously listed. Start the 2 minute timer on the slide when you are ready to begin.

Display **slide 13** for rotation 6 and have participants return to their original scenario. Pass out a copy of the [Five Roles Families Play to Accelerate Student Learning](#) handout (attached) to each participant. Participants will review the strengths and challenges listed on the poster. Each group will consider the strengths and challenges for their family and select one role from the handout that can support their family in assisting their student in postsecondary readiness.

Display **slide 14** to share the Five Roles Families Play to Accelerate Student Learning. Start the [8 minute timer](#) on the slide.

Once the timer has stopped, each group will nominate a spokesperson to share the role they selected and the reasons they selected the role. If you have multiple groups of the same scenario, group the responses one after the other.

10 minutes

Explain

Display **slide 15**. Pass out the attached **Partnering with Families for Student Success Research Brief** to each participant. Introduce the [I Think, We Think](#) strategy to the group. Have the participants individually read the research brief about family engagement and postsecondary readiness. After participants have read the brief, have each participant record what they believe to be the most important information they learned under the I Think column on their Note Catcher.

Display **slide 16** and invite participants to share with a partner what they wrote in the I Think column. As a group, they will discuss the most important aspect of the brief. Once they come to a decision, they will write down their thoughts under the We Think column.

Facilitator's Note: Discussion

Participants do not have to agree with their group or write down the same information on their Note Catcher.

5 minutes

Extend

Display the Menti results from the Engage section and ask participants to reflect on their own individual areas of strength and growth. Move to **slide 17** and introduce the [Two Stars and a Wish](#) instructional strategy. On their Note Catcher, have participants write two examples of successful family engagement efforts they have implemented from the domain that is their area of strength. Then have participants write a family engagement strategy that they would like to try to support their growth area. Have participants find a partner, preferably a participant from their school site. Inform participants that they will take turns sharing the family engagement strategy they would like to try. Ask for a few groups to share their strategies with the large group.

Technology Option

Consider using the digital version of [Two Stars and a Wish](#). This will allow your participants to answer digitally and for you to download their responses.

5 minutes

Evaluate

Display **slide 18** and ask participants to reflect on the following question: *How would you leverage your area of strength to address your area of growth?*

Provide participants time to discuss with someone sitting near them. If time allows, have a few volunteers share their responses.

Research Rationale

See the attached Partnering with Families for Student Success Research Brief.

Resources

Family Engagement Assessment Tool. (2024). Flamboyant Foundation.

<https://assess.flamboyantfoundation.org/>

Flamboyant Foundation. (n.d.). https://www.flamboyantfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Five-Roles-Families-Play_Flamboyant-Foundation.pdf

K20 Center. (n.d.). Chalk talk. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/19>

K20 Center. (n.d.). Mentimeter. Tech Tool. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/tech-tool/645>

K20 Center. (n.d.). Gallery walk / carousel. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/118>

K20 Center. (n.d.). I think / we think. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/141>

K20 Center. (n.d.). Two stars and a wish. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/83>

YouTube. K20 Center 2 minute timer [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcEEAnwOt2c&list=PL-aUHQeaZXLMF3ftNDxiuSkEr0pq0c2&index=4>

YouTube. K20 Center 3 minute timer [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iISP02KPau0&list=PL-aUHQeaZXLMF3ftNDxiuSkEr0pq0c2&index=5>

YouTube. K20 Center 8 minute timer [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-21YM7Ey7k&list=PL-aUHQeaZXLMF3ftNDxiuSkEr0pq0c2&index=10>