

Definition of Family and Community Engagement

Review the following definition of effective family and community engagement.

“Engagement among families, schools, and the community is a shared responsibility. It reflects the many different ways in which families, community organizations, and schools engage with and support one another to ensure that every child is academically successful. It is continuous throughout a child’s life and happens everywhere children learn: at home, in school, and in the community. It supports the creation of pathways that honor the dynamic, multiple, and complementary ways that children learn and grow from cradle to career. And it recognizes and encourages the role family and community play in advocating for educational quality and opportunity for all children.”

How does this definition help you shift from a patchwork of random acts of involvement to an approach that promotes family and community engagement in an NJTSS framework?

Shifting from Random Involvement	To Strategic Engagement
One-time projects: Holding a Family Fun Night once a year.	Continuous improvement: Forming a committee that focuses on creating a positive and inclusive school climate and surveys families each year to get feedback for improvement.
Individual responsibility to support student learning	
Deficit-based or adversarial approach to interactions	
Add-on program to support needed change	
Compliance-driven engagement	

This definition is adapted from the description of effective family and community engagement created by the National Family, School, and Community Engagement Working Group (2009).

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What is Your Definition of Family and Community Engagement?

How does this definition help you shift from a patchwork of random acts of involvement to an approach that promotes family and community engagement in an NJTSS framework?

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