

Course Title: Engaging Families in Support of Student Learning	
Number of Content Modules: 5	Grade Levels: K-12
Questions: 1-855-498-4400 PD@TeachnKidsLearn.com	TKL Catalog: https://teachingknowledgeloop.com/external-catalog

Course Description

This course on effective strategies for engaging families in support of student learning will provide educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to establish strong, positive relationships with families and involve them in the educational process. The course will cover key strategies for building connections with families and engaging them in the learning process in ways that are meaningful to them.

Educators will design and implement school-level initiatives that support family involvement and promote student success. They will learn how to create a welcoming and inclusive school culture that supports students' academic and social-emotional development. Educators will learn strategies to build meaningful connections with all families, including those from cultural and linguistic backgrounds different from that of the educator. In addition, the course will examine the role of the teacher in building partnerships with community organizations.

Throughout the course, educators reflect on their teaching practices and apply what they have learned through interactive activities and hands-on exercises. The goal of the course is to empower educators to become confident and competent teachers who effectively partner with families and community members.

Course Objectives

CO.1: Apply evidence-based practices to establish an inclusive school community partnership with families and educators to advocate for student learning opportunities. [Danielson 4b, 4c]

CO.2: Design a culturally responsive-sustaining learning environment by eliminating barriers to the equity that inhibit students from historically underserved and marginalized groups from becoming confident student learners. [Danielson 4c]

CO.3: Interrogate, reflect on, and intentionally address personal and institutional beliefs, norms, and practices that contribute to inequity and prevent learners at the margins from realizing their full potential as productive citizens. [Danielson 4a, 4c]

CO.4: Design inclusive, welcoming, learning partnerships among students, families, teachers, and administrators by employing culturally responsive, asset-focused approaches that build on the funds of knowledge students, their families, and their communities. [Danielson 2a, 2b, 4a, 4c]

CO.5: Reflect in brave learning spaces to a) examine perspectives and experiences of marginalized groups, b) surface and interrogate personal and institutional assumptions, beliefs, and practices that contribute to inequity, and c) reflect on the complex ways identity and culture shape teaching and learning. [Danielson 1b, 2a]

Course Outline

Course Introduction Module

Course available completely online
(24/7 and Self-Paced)

Assignments due by the end of the term.

Module Topics

In this module, you will learn about the course set-up, expectations for learning and collaborating, meet your colleagues, and reflect on your prior knowledge about teaching with artificial intelligence.

- Course Navigation & Methodology
- Course Description
- A Transformative Approach to Education
- Expectations and Community Agreements for Engaging in Brave Dialogue
- Community Building Circle: Course Story
- Course Objectives

Module 1: Establishing Successful Family-School Partnerships

Module Topics

In this module, we will examine standards for successful family-school partnerships, evaluate our current practice, and set goals for culturally responsive engagement with families.

Section 1: The Value of Family Engagement

- Learn about It! Family and School Partnerships 30 min
- Learn about It! Asset-focused Dispositions, Practices, and Pedagogies [discussion board] 15min
- Learn about It! Family Involvement Matters 30 min
- Reflect on It! The Multifaceted Role of Family Engagement [discussion board] 15min
- Practice It! The Dual Capacity Building Framework 30 min

Section 2: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Family Engagement

- Reflect on It! Surfacing Biases, Beliefs, and Assumptions about Students and Families 15 min
- Learn about It! Practicing Cultural Humility 30 min
- Learn about It! Culturally Responsive Practices to Sustain Family Engagement 30 min
- Reflect on It! Racial Socialization: Implications for Black Parents [discussion board] 15 min
- Practice It! Applying Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Practices 30 min

Section 3: Trends, Standards, and Practices for Family Engagement

- *Learn about It!* Trends in Parental Involvement 15 min
- *Reflect on It!* Culturally Responsive Family Engagement 15 min
- *Reflect on It!* Practices Caregivers Recommend to Engage Families 15 min

Reflect on It! Community Involvement to Promote Equity 15 min

Section 4: Module Wrap-Up

- *Master It! Setting Goals for Successful Family-School Partnerships* 180 min

Module 2: School-Level Family Involvement

Module Topics

In this module, educators reflect on their school culture and the strategies they use to welcome families into the school community. As educators consider the practices of the school as a whole and their individual practice, they will develop skills to improve family-school partnerships. This module includes strategies such as adjusting communication styles, getting feedback from families, developing family and parent engagement events, coordinating information dissemination and volunteer opportunities, and developing a plan for involving culturally and linguistically diverse families. Educators will analyze data and create an action plan to include families and parents in school activities.

Section 1: Creating a Welcoming Environment

- Learn about It! Creating a Welcoming School 15 min
- Practice It! Visualize Your School as a Caregiver 45 min
- Learn about It! Creating a Family-Friendly School Environment 15 min
- Learn about It! Supporting Families 15 min
- Learn about It! Culturally Responsive Practices to Develop Family School Partnerships [discussion board] 15 min
- Learn about It! Staying Connected 15 min
- Practice It! Evaluating your School's Website and Social Media [discussion board] 15 min
- Practice It! Barriers to Family Communication 45 min

Section 2: Strategies for Increasing Family Involvement

- Learn about It! Types of Family Involvement 30 min
- Learn about It! Ideas for School Level Family Engagement 30 min
- Learn about It! Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Communication [discussion board] 15 min
- Learn about It! Engaging Families of Students with Disabilities 45 min
- Practice It! True for Who? The IEP Meeting 60 min

Section 3: Module Wrap-Up

- *Master It! Action Planning for Successful Family-School Partnerships* 120 min

Module 3: Engaging Families in the Classroom

Module Topics

In this section, we will explore culturally responsive strategies for engaging families at the classroom level, including the planning of family engagement events. We will examine inclusive strategies for teacher-caregiver communication with special consideration for multilingual families.

Section 1: Setting the Foundation to Engage Families

- Learn about It! Establishing Learning Partnerships with Families 30 min
- Learn about It! Implementing Trust Generators into the Classroom 45 min
- Reflect on It! Lessons Learned - Ask More Questions and Listen [discussion board] 15min

Section 2: Event-Based Family Engagement Strategies

- Learn about It! Events for Starting the School Year 45 min
- Learn about It! Student-Family-Teacher Conferences [discussion board]15 min
- Learn about It! Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APT) 45 min

Section 3: Effective Family Communication

- Learn about It! Establishing Positive Communication 30 min
- Reflect on It! Establishing Ongoing Communication 15 min
- Learn about It! Tech Tools for Family Communication [discussion board] 15 min
- Learn about It! Broadcasting: The Parent Power Hour Example 30 min
- Master It! Family Communication Plan 180 min

Section 4: Leveraging Family Support Structures

- Learn about It! Encouraging Family Volunteers [discussion board] 15 min
- Reflect on It! Engaging Multilingual Families 15 min
- Practice It! Outside In: Engaging Families in the Classroom 30 min

Section 5: Module Wrap-Up

- Reflect on It! Critique Practices that Devalue Families [discussion board] 15 min

Module 4: Meeting Families Where They Are: Building a Culture of Belonging

Module Topics

In Module 4, we will identify tools to measure a sense of belonging at school for students and families at school. Then, we will discuss ways to acknowledge and capitalize on the home supports families provide to students to advance and enhance learning.

Section 1: Belonging Schools and Classrooms

- Reflect on It! What we Know about Belonging 30 min

- Practice It! Questions of Belonging 60 min
- Learn about It! Black and Belonging 60 min
- Reflect on It! Affinity Bias: The Circle of Trust [discussion board] 30 min

Section 2: Supporting Students at Home

- Learn about It! Setting Students Up for Success 30 min
- Learn about It! Supporting Home Literacy Development 1 min
- Reflect on It! Capitalizing on Conversation 15 min
- Reflect on It! Homework vs. Home-School Connections 30 min
- Practice It! Guides to Support Learning in ELA and Math 120 min
- Reflect on It! Programs that Connect Schools and Families [discussion board] 15 min

Module 5: Parent and Family Education Opportunities

Module Topics

In this module, we will examine resources for creating school, family, and community partnerships.

Section 1: Community Resources to Build Inclusive Environments

- Reflect on It! Connecting Culture, Community, and School [discussion board] 15 min
- Learn about It! Tips for Engaging the Community 15 min
- Learn about It! Creating a Family Engagement Center 90 min
- Practice It! Getting Started with Community Involvement 120 min
- Master It! Assessing Family and Community Engagement 240 min

Course Wrap-Up Module

Module Topics

In the Course Wrap-Up Module, you will reflect on your self-efficacy for mastering the course objectives.

Section 1: Summative Course Reflection

- Master It! Summative Course Reflection [30min]
- Reflect on It! Course Evaluation and Feedback [30min]
- Learn about It! Course Reference List