



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 16, 2018

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sheila A. Alles
Interim State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Family Engagement Definition and Principles

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has defined terminology and shared principles for Family Engagement. Family Engagement appears in the Every Student Succeeds Act plan and Top 10 in 10 Goals and Strategies and is used in multiple projects and initiatives, such as Whole Child, Early Literacy, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). The definition of "Family Engagement" and associated principles are:

Family Engagement - Definition

Family engagement is a collaborative relationship between families, educators, providers, and partners to support and improve the learning, development, and health of every learner.

Family Engagement – Principles

- Relationships are the cornerstone of family engagement.
- Positive learning environments contribute to family engagement and learning.
- Family engagement efforts are tailored to address all families, so all learners are successful.
- Family engagement efforts are purposeful, intentional, and clearly identify learner outcomes.
- Families are engaged and supported partners in their child's education.

The definition and principles may be found on the MDE website:
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-80635_86000---,00.html. The definition and principles are accompanied by a graphic representation or visual framework. Local education agencies, public school academies, intermediate school districts, and educational programs are encouraged to adopt and/or align the definition and principles.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – CO-PRESIDENT • RICHARD ZEILE – CO-PRESIDENT
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY – NASBE DELEGATE • PAMELA PUGH
NIKKI SNYDER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788

By providing state-level definitions, the MDE will establish and model consistency and alignment. Additionally, sharing these definitions will support and reinforce a consistent application of the definition and principles. The definition and principles are being utilized to help design Michigan's Family Engagement Framework, which will include strategies and resources to support family engagement efforts. Michigan's Family Engagement Framework will be available for local education agencies, public school academies, intermediate school districts, and educational programs by spring 2019. Defining these terms aligns to Goal 5 of Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Strategic Plan: Ensure that parents/guardians are engaged and supported partners in their child's education.

For additional information, please contact Noel Kelty, KeltyN@michigan.gov or 517-335-1958.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance