



Engaging Families in Social Emotional Learning



Hosted by Jessica from
Move This World





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Education**



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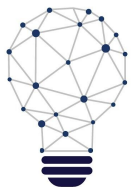
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How can we improve family engagement?

1. Why include families in SEL?
2. Barriers families face when engaging with school communities
3. 4 strategies to engage families
4. Q&A

Audience Poll



Why include families in SEL?



- Positive effect on students' achievement
- 200% more likely to attain a college degree when social competency scores go up by one point

Research: Parent Involvement in Education

Why engage families?

Students

Increased academic achievement.

Improved attitude and behavior.

Increased attendance.

Improved mental health.

Teachers

Improved teacher morale.

Stronger school culture and climate.

Improved relationships and communication.

Parents

Increased parental confidence.

Stronger interest in personal development and education.

Improved relationships and communication.

Barriers to Family Engagement
Scheduling

Transportation

Language Barriers

Discomfort or Unease

Financial Barriers

4 Strategies to Engage Families

Teach

Communicate

Volunteer

Support

- ★ Successful family engagement plans include a variety of ways to participate

Teach

What?

- What is social emotional learning?
- What does science and research tell us about SEL?
- How does the school plan to implement and integrate SEL?
- What programs will be used?

When?

- Provide foundational knowledge at the beginning of the school year.
- Share updated information on programming & continue to share resources throughout the school year.

How?

- Share information at open house or back to school night.
- Send written communication home to families via students.
- Communicate via email and text message, as appropriate.
- Discuss student progress at parent teacher conferences and other 1:1 meetings.

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Resources:

1. [What is SEL?](#)
2. [Social & Emotional Milestones](#)
3. [Fast Facts about SEL](#)

Communicate

1. Create a list of all the social emotional learning initiatives being implemented this school year.
2. Proactively identify questions and concerns families may have.
3. Determine the best way to distribute and share information.

Communicate

SEL Initiatives	Potential Questions & Concerns from Families	Communication Plan Strategies
<p>What Tier 1 social emotional learning initiatives are in place?</p> <p>What Tier 2 social emotional learning initiatives are in place?</p> <p>What Tier 3 social emotional learning initiatives are in place?</p> <p>What initiatives are being spearheaded by the district? By the school?</p> <p>What initiatives are individual classroom teachers putting into place?</p> <p>What future plans are there focusing on social emotional learning?</p>	<p>Why did the district and/or school decide to implement SEL?</p> <p>What impact does the district and/or school hope to see?</p> <p>How will success be measured?</p> <p>What impact do initiatives have on instructional time?</p> <p>What skills will students be learning?</p> <p>How can I support SEL skill development at home?</p> <p>Who do I talk to if I'm concerned about my child's social & emotional wellbeing?</p>	<p>Inform all families about tier 1 initiatives through <i>letters and handouts</i>.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for families to experience tier 1 initiatives through <i>back to school night or family nights</i>.</p> <p>Educate parents about the approach the school or district is taking through <i>letters, handouts and presentations</i>.</p> <p>Discuss student progress and opportunities for additional support (tier 2/3) at <i>1:1 meetings and conferences</i>.</p> <p>Provide time to answer questions/concerns during <i>family nights or webinars</i>.</p>

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Resources:

1. [Family Letter](#)
2. [Glow & Grow Form](#)

Volunteer

Identify Needs

#1

Identify which school initiatives and events could benefit from parent support. Some examples might include: field days, school performances, social emotional learning, STEM clubs, etc.

Survey Parents

#2

Create interest surveys to post at open houses, back to school night, parent-teacher conferences or to send home with students. Ask parents who are interested to sign up for an initiative they would like to support.

Survey Teachers

#3

Survey teachers to see which parents might be interested in getting involved with particular initiatives.

Lean On PTA

#4

Lean on the Parent Teacher Association for support. The PTA might be willing to make social emotional learning a focal point of their initiatives for the year or could suggest family volunteers who could get involved.

Volunteer

Initiative	Description
Leading a Committee or Club	<p>Enlist a parent leader who is willing to lead an SEL Committee or Club. The Committee or Club could help facilitate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After school <i>mindfulness opportunities</i> for students, staff, and parents. This might include meditation or yoga - their might even be a parent who could lead the session! • Facilitate an <i>SEL Book Club</i>. Parents, staff and community members can increase their knowledge around SEL and school culture initiatives as well as get to know each other in a unique venue. Meetings can take place online to increase accessibility to more parents.
Planning Events	<p>Whether this be the PTA, a parent leader or the SEL committee, plan special events that will focus on SEL. This might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Professional Development for Families</i>: Look for opportunities to provide PD for families. PD might focus on teaching parents SEL content knowledge, sharing information about programs being implemented, explaining how to support SEL at home, or giving families the time to reflect on their own social and emotional wellbeing and what support systems they can put in place for themselves. • <i>SEL Night for Students</i>: Plan a night to focus on the five core competencies. Get students involved by having them explain what the five core competencies mean to them. Practice SEL skills by having a fun, engaging exercise or game focused on each core competency that families, students, and staff can all participate in. • <i>Incorporate SEL into current events</i>: If there are parent nights and events already on the calendar integrate SEL into the evening by opening and closing the event intentionally or by distributing information at the event.

Volunteer

Initiative	Description
Compiling Resources	<p>Continue to compile resources that can be sent home throughout the year. This might be a trusted parent creating resources or finding resources online or organizing pre-selected materials to be sent home to parents. Try sending home this variety of materials on a quarterly or monthly basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Up-to-date research</i> or news from the social emotional learning field. • <i>New resources</i> to use at home. • Ideas for practicing <i>self-care</i> (for themselves and their children).
Evaluating or Selecting Future Programming	<p>As your school or district moves forward with implementing a systematic approach to SEL, reflect on how parents can get involved by considering the questions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What skills do parents hope to see their children learn? • What impact data can be shared with them? • Are there opportunities for parents to be involved in the selection process?

Resources:

1. [Family Night Sample Agenda](#)
2. [SEL Book Club](#)

Support

Provide resources to practice skills at home

1. Reading Discussion Questions
2. Books to Promote SEL Skill Development
3. Journal Prompts
4. Family Interviews

Creating your Action Plan

Resources

1. [Team Audit](#)
2. [Action Planning & Prioritization](#)



*How can we improve family
engagement?*

Q&A

Connect with our team

 @move_thisworld



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