



Introducing MiFamily: Michigan's Prenatal Through Post-Secondary Family Engagement

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Michigan Department of Lifelong
Education, Advancement, and Potential

Introducing MiFamily: Michigan's Prenatal through Post Secondary Framework

NAESPA
8/28/2024



MiFamily
Engagement Centers

Family Engagement and Early Literacy Team Structure



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Agenda



- MiFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework
- Section 35(i) Funded MiFamily Centers
- Questions

MiFamily: Michigan's Prenatal through Post Secondary Family Engagement Framework



January 2018-MDE Family Engagement Leadership Team Forms

- Launch of Family Engagement Leadership Team and Creation of Advisory Groups
- Adoption of Family Engagement Definition and 5 Principles
- Work with NAFSCE and CCSSO begins
- Creation of an Internal Family Engagement Framework to Guide Work

March, 2020-MDE Releases MiFamily

- Framework Launched the Same Week of COVID Shutdowns
- Work Shifted and Stalled
- Development of Family Engagement “One Pagers” – requested by the field

Spring, 2024-MiLEAP is launched and an office devoted to continuing and building upon this work is created

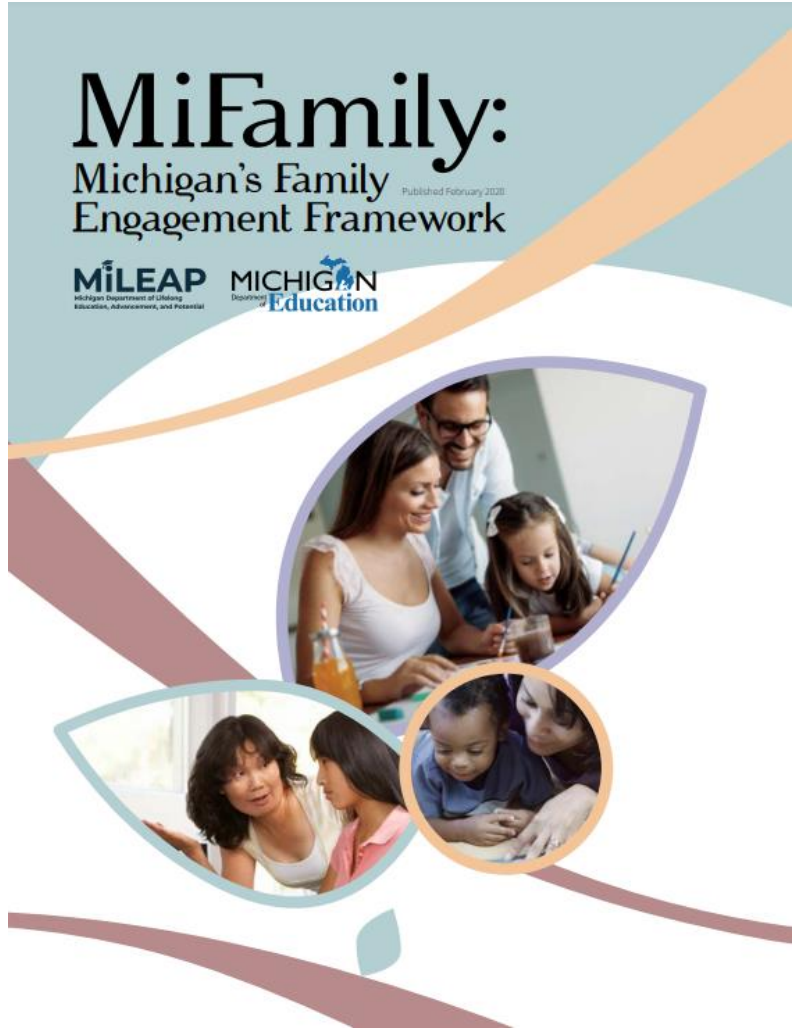
- Hiring of Staff
- Section 35i MiFamily Centers

Family Engagement Definition and Principles



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

MiFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework



MiFamily
Engagement Centers

MiFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework

- Version 1 was created and used to conduct 9 focus groups (approximately 200 educators, providers, and partners) in the fall of 2019
- Modifications were made based on recurring themes from the focus groups



MiFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework

WHAT IT IS

- A Prenatal through post-secondary framework to guide educators and practitioners
- Created and revised with stakeholders in the field
- A first edition
- The first of many resources to aid in engaging families
- About 10 pages of content

WHAT IT IS NOT

- Meant to be used by families
- Mandated
- Compliance focused
- Stale and outdated
- Too long!!!

Why Does Family Engagement Matter?

Family engagement is increasingly emerging as a primary predictor for children's academic success¹. Family experiences are significant predictors of cognitive skills, and social-emotional skills, such as motivation, attention, impulse control, and self-confidence². Studies of family engagement in education reveal large associations between family engagement and success for students. Child outcomes

improve considerably when schools and families collaborate on individual children's needs, goals, programs, and progress². Effective family engagement improves classroom dynamics, increases teacher expectations, student-teacher relationships, and cultural competence⁴. Family engagement can be the key to improving school dropout rates and foster improved educational aspirations⁵. Additionally, family engagement impacts student

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

achievement, regardless of race or culture⁶. Promoting family engagement through effective home to school collaborations supports the continuity of learning and outcomes for children and families. Quality, research-based family strategies:

- Build strong parent-school relationships, promoting positive outcomes for students⁷.
- Provide needed social and intellectual resources that have a positive impact on school improvement efforts⁸. Activities include participating in policy councils, or acting as a school liaison⁹.
- Recognize that all families, regardless of income, education, or cultural background, are involved in their child's learning and want their child to do well¹⁰.
- Are strongly linked to higher levels of academic achievement, increased attendance, more positive attitudes toward school, and higher graduation rates¹¹.
- Supports high expectations for learners and helping them make real-world connections¹².

Setting the Foundation

- Latest Research
- MDE's Family Engagement Definition and Principles



GUIDING PRINCIPLES: How to Engage Families

Family engagement is a shared responsibility in which schools are committed to reach out to families in meaningful ways and families are committed to actively supporting their children. Authentic family engagement fosters personal relationships, respect, and mutual understanding with families. Authentic family engagement also includes sharing data with families about their learner, supporting home cultures, and aligning family engagement activities with program or school improvement goals²². The MDE, in conjunction with the Family Engagement Stakeholder's Committee, conducted a deep analysis of research while garnering additional stakeholder voice, which led to five family engagement principles supporting MDE's definition of family engagement. The principles guide the development and inclusion of resources and strategies that research demonstrates what most impacts authentic family engagement.

Michigan's Family Engagement Principles

1. Relationships are the cornerstone of family engagement.

- Adopt an evidence-based home visiting program
- Building Bridges/Cultural Proficiency Activities
- Planned positive communications with all families

2. Families are engaged and supported partners in their child's education.

- Including families on planning teams
- Using surveys throughout the year to capture family input and report out results
- Linking families to community resources

3. Family engagement efforts are purposeful, intentional, and clearly identify learner outcomes.

- Academic Parent-Teacher Teams
- Design family events with family input and use the events to teach families skills they can reinforce at home
- Student led conferences

4. Family engagement efforts are tailored to address all families so all learners are successful.

- Seek barriers and remove them
- Provide interpreters and offer communications in multiple languages

- Provide training to staff
- Offer childcare at events
- Seek barriers and remove them.

5. Positive learning environments contribute to family engagement and learning.

- Involve families when creating security and visiting policies
- Administration and staff visible in halls, at entries, at the buses, and at pickup/drop off
- Community Schools Approach

Building Capacity to Do the Work: Stakeholders' Roles and Actions

Family engagement is a shared responsibility in which schools are committed to reach out to families in meaningful ways and families are equipped to actively support their children. This guide has been developed for educators and providers of programs and schools to support families to become the best partners in their child's education that they can be. Through the development of trusting relationships, two-way communication, and activities aligned with learner outcomes, family engagement efforts foster learning and development. This guide will support educators and providers of educational programs while accompanying family guides will support families. Authentic family engagement fosters building personal relationships, respect, and mutual understanding with families, sharing data with families about their learner, supporting home cultures, and aligning family engagement activities with program or school improvement goals²⁴.

The MDE, in conjunction with the Family Engagement Stakeholder's Committee, conducted a deep analysis of research while garnering additional stakeholder voice, which led to five family engagement principles supporting MDE's definition of family engagement. The principles guide the development and inclusion of resources and strategies that research demonstrates most impacts quality family engagement.

An overwhelming and recurring theme found in focus groups with families across Michigan has been the concept, "nothing about us without us!" As you plan family engagement activities and initiatives, it is important that families partner with schools and programs and schools in the planning process.

“ It makes me feel important when I feel I can be a part of something that matters. ”

— Mecosta-Osceola Parent, January 2018

The 5 Principles

- Outlines the five principles and provides three evidence-based practices related to each principle
- Overview of the stakeholder involvement process

Chart 2: What Does High-Impact Family Engagement Look Like in Elementary Schools?

Higher Impact on student learning and development	Moderate Impact	Lower Impact
1. Back to School Night class meetings where families and teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share learning strategies Review key skills for students with home learning tips Develop a communications plan 	Open House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families tour school, chat with teachers Classroom visits to meet teacher Exhibits of student work 	Back to School night in the auditorium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel of speakers Pass out student handbooks Hand out school calendar
2. Regular two-way calls/texts/emails to share progress and tips.	Positive personal phone calls home	One-way communication such as texts, group emails, and messaging.
3. Family centers, staffed, conduct workshops on learning strategies, and provide referrals to social services, and/or host informal gatherings.	Family resource room with toys, games and books to borrow	School newsletters with generic messages
4. Relationship-building home visits provided by teachers, voluntary for both teachers and families and available for all families.	Coffee with the principal; Muffins for Moms; Donuts with Dads	Potlucks, other traditional whole-school-based events
5. Story quilting workshops and poetry slams where families, teachers and students all tell their stories, share their work.	School book club and authors' tea featuring student writers	Student performances
6. Classroom observations with mini-lessons; weekly data-sharing folders go home, with space for family comments; academic parent-teacher teams	Interactive homework with tips for home learning	Curriculum nights
7. Student-led conferences with portfolios of student work, followed by 1:1 conversations about learning, to set goals.	Family-teacher conferences twice a year, available evenings and weekend	Family-teacher conferences, during work day

From Vision to Practice

Charts that can be used to assess current practice and gather ideas for improved practice

- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- Secondary
- After School Programs

MiFamily Engagement Centers

Regional Systems of Support



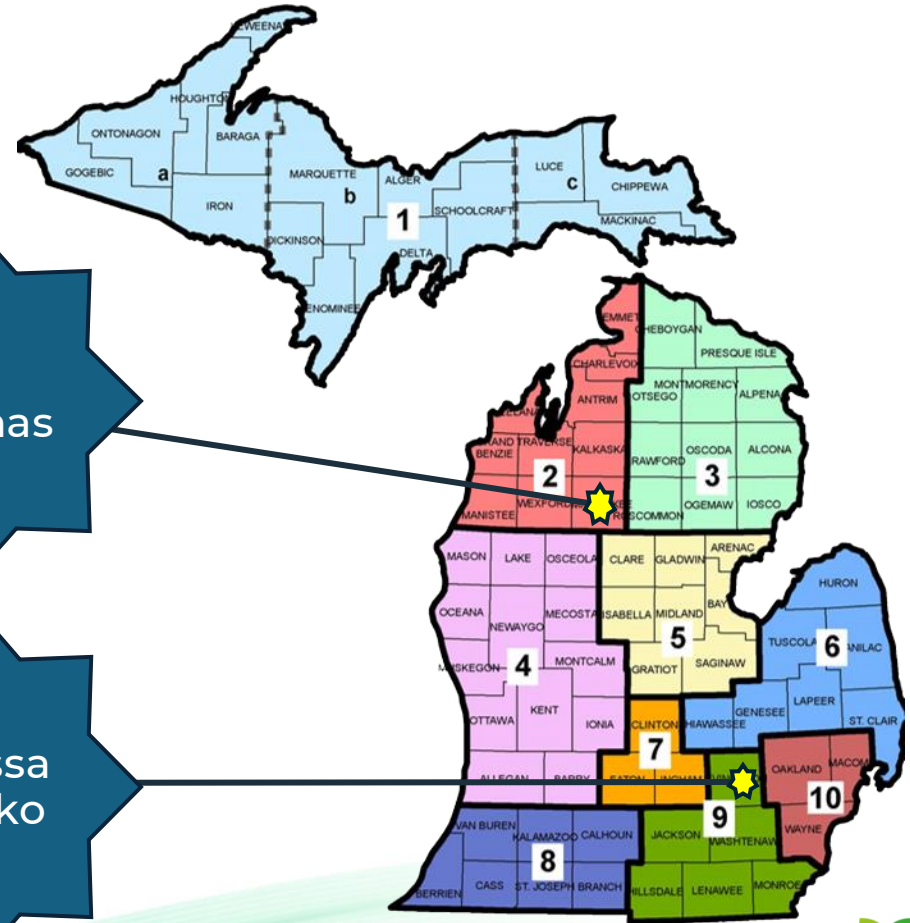
MiFamily Engagement Centers

Region 1: Upper Peninsula – Copper Country ISD
Region 2: Northwest LP – Char-Em ISD
Region 3: Northeast LP – AMA ESD
Region 4: West – Ottawa Area ISD
Region 5: Central – Bay-Arenac ISD

Al
Thomas

Region 6: East – St. Clair County RESA
Region 7: South Central – Ingham ISD
Region 8: Southwest – Berrien, Kalamazoo RESA
Region 9: Southeast – Washtenaw ISD
Region 10: Metro Detroit – Wayne RESA

Melissa
Manko

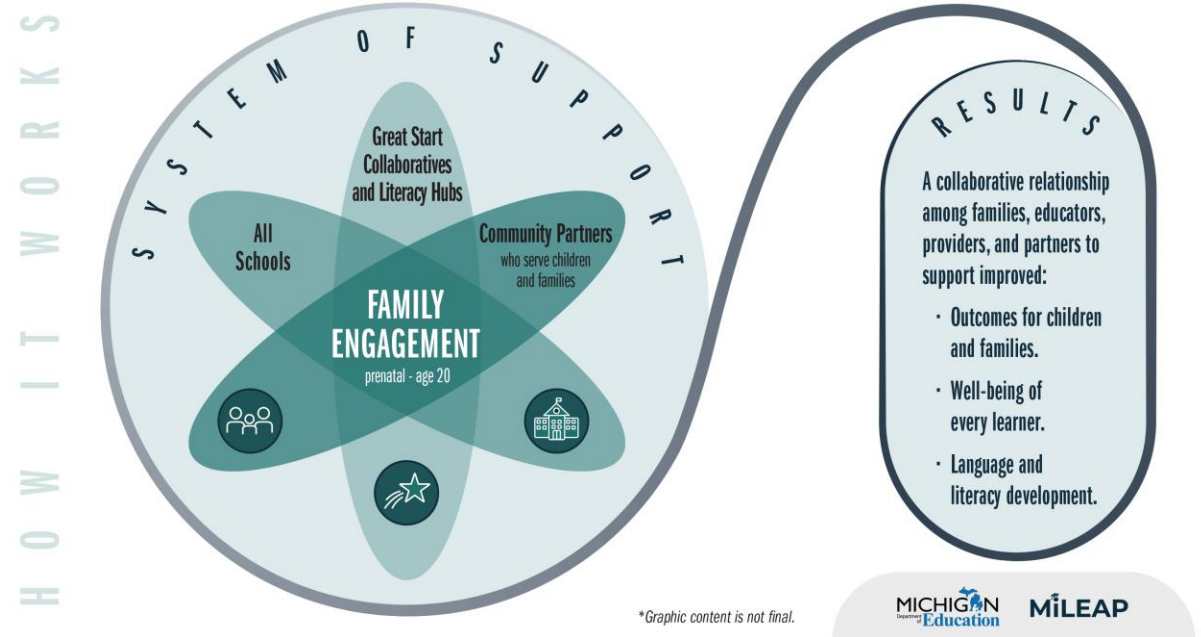


Purpose of the Grant

- Development of a system of support, not a physical space, for educators/providers working with families
- Launching activities, including, but not limited to, training, coaching, technical assistance, resource development, and online learning modules
- Supporting compensation and required travel for coordinators and coaches of the MiFamily Engagement Centers.
- Allocating \$120,000 each year over the next 4 years to build on the existing infrastructure and continue the work of the established Literacy Support Network Hubs in the region.

MiFamily Engagement Center

→ a system of success at your fingertips, no location needed



MiFamily
Engagement Centers

Grant Requirements

- Family Engagement Coordinators, Coaches, Literacy Hub leaders
- Participation in monthly Community of Practice meetings
- Partnerships within region
- MiFamily: Michigan's Family Engagement Framework including principles



Regional Partnerships

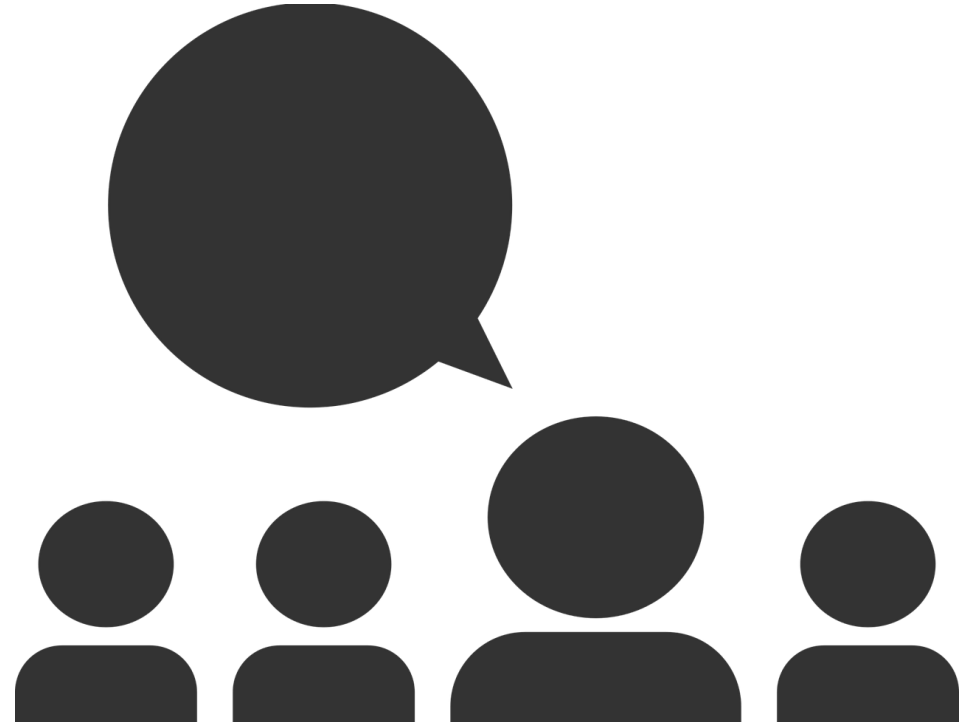
- Great Start to Quality Resource Centers
- Local Great Start Collaboratives/Family Coalitions
- K-3 Literacy Coaches
- ISDs and LEAs
- Local Libraries
- Community Organizations
- MiSTEM Network
- Childcare providers
- DHHS
- Other organizations in your region

Statewide Campaign

- Awarded to Berrien RESA
- \$2 million to share how parents can support early literacy for children B-5th grade
 - Expand parental knowledge
 - Raise awareness of GSC/FC, before and after school programs
 - Build upon work of Literacy Hubs
- Funding must be spent by September 30, 2025

Family Engagement Committees

- **Education Partnership Team** - The Family Engagement and Early Literacy Unit
- **State Partners Team** - Collaborate with the Education Partnership Team members to create and/or support the development of all family engagement resources and provide professional learning.
- **Advisory Team** - Acting like an accordion, this group will review work done by the Education Partnerships and State Partners teams, provide feedback, and advise future family engagement efforts.



Current Work

- Our two consultants are facilitating touch point meetings with each region that will exist until the end of the grant
- Upcoming in person meetings with Regions
- Creating presentations and submitting proposals for presentations at conferences
- Attending various meetings and trainings to build partnerships
- Community of Practice (10 regions) development and calendar forthcoming in early August
- The whole team is attending the [NAFSCE](#) (National Assembly for Family Engagement in Education) conference Oct 21-25
- Evaluation Plan for the Centers with Region 8 TA Center

Initial Observations

- Disconnect between PreK and K-12
- Siloed Approaches
- Need for clear and consistent language

Systems Building

- Slow work
- Need for careful attention to detail and planning

www.mi.gov/familypartnerships



Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential



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Higher Education ▾

Education Partnerships ▾

Inside MiLEAP ▾

Press Releases

Family Partnerships



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Thank you!!!

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