



Engaging Families for College and Career Readiness

Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Level Setting
 - Who is ACT Now?
 - Defining Family Engagement
 - Defining College and Career Readiness
- Creating a Family Engagement Plan
- Takeaway Activity
- Closing and Evaluation



Get to know ACT Now!



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Who is ACT Now?



Join the coalition by [signing up](#) for our newsletter



Our Family Engagement Philosophy

*The process by which afterschool and summer programs build **meaningful, impactful, lasting** relationships with families to support them and their children.*

College & Career Readiness and Afterschool



The Importance of College and Career Experiences in Out-of-School Time Programs

A guide to facilitating engaging College and Career Readiness activities in your afterschool program



Family Engagement & Connection to College and Career Readiness

***What does the research
say?***

College and Career Readiness is a feature of Family Engagement but EQUITY is a foundation and here is how...

You know the why, now for the HOW

Things to remember:

- College and career readiness happens at all ages
- Equity as the foundation throughout

Formal Family Engagement Plan = **Consistent & Authentic Engagement**

Creating a Vision Statement

- What are your/your staff's **core beliefs about FE?**
- What makes **ideal, high-quality FE practices?**
- Draft a **Vision Statement**

Sample Vision Statement:

All families of students participating in ABC Cares programs feel like partners in their child's growth and development, feel included in our organization's work, and feel welcome as a member of the ABC Cares community.

Let's Practice

In the chat, list a **core belief**
you hold about **family**
engagement



Evaluating Current Practices

What efforts are you **already** doing?

- Communications
- Family-focused events
- Current FE plan
- Feedback from families
- Shared resources

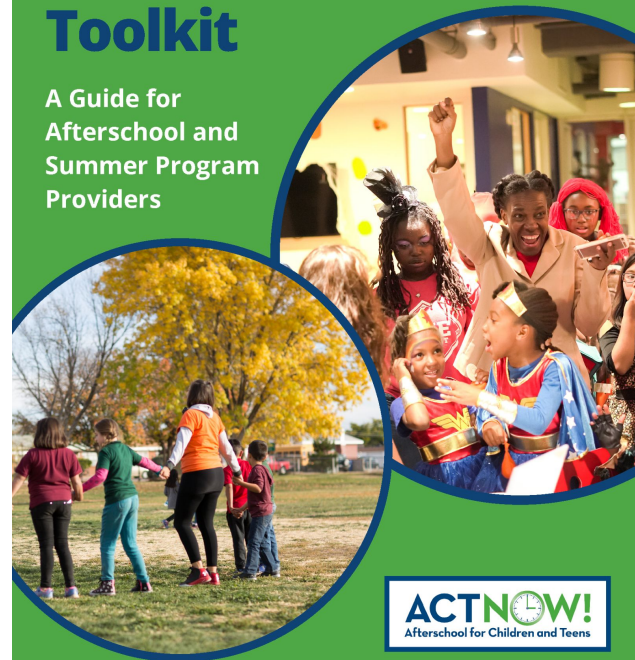


Let's Practice

Select 3 ways you
already engage families

Family Engagement Toolkit

A Guide for
Afterschool and
Summer Program
Providers



Identify Goals

Short-Term

- Easily achievable in the next year
- Things to do/identify immediately

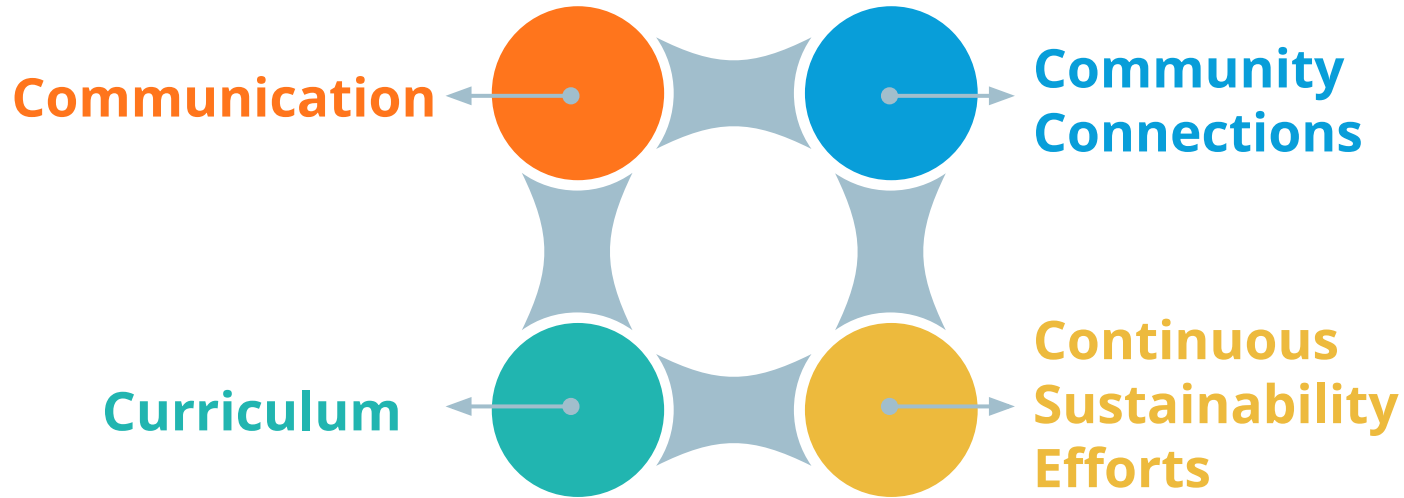
Long-Term

- Address where you want your FE to grow
- Formalized & systematized beyond you

Both: written with the Vision Statement in mind

Develop a plan

Diverse Families = Diverse Needs



Communication

Exchange of information that flows in both directions

Individual Level

- Digitally via texts, calls, emails, meetings
- In-person connections

Group Level

- Social media
- Newsletters



Communication

People are busy so **make it easy**

- Accessible and concise
- How do they WANT to be communicated with?
- Are you using an equity-lens?



[Digital Family Engagement Tracker](#)

High-Quality Curriculum

Social

Casual interaction with each other, youth, and staff

- Drop-Ins
- Fun Nights
- Coffee Chats

Skill - Development

Intentional, informative

- How-To
- Transition Support

Identity-Focused

Providing dedicated space for a specific identity

- Affinity Groups
- Holiday & Cultural Celebrations

Let's Practice

Think of
1 virtual and 1 in-person
potential event
for any category



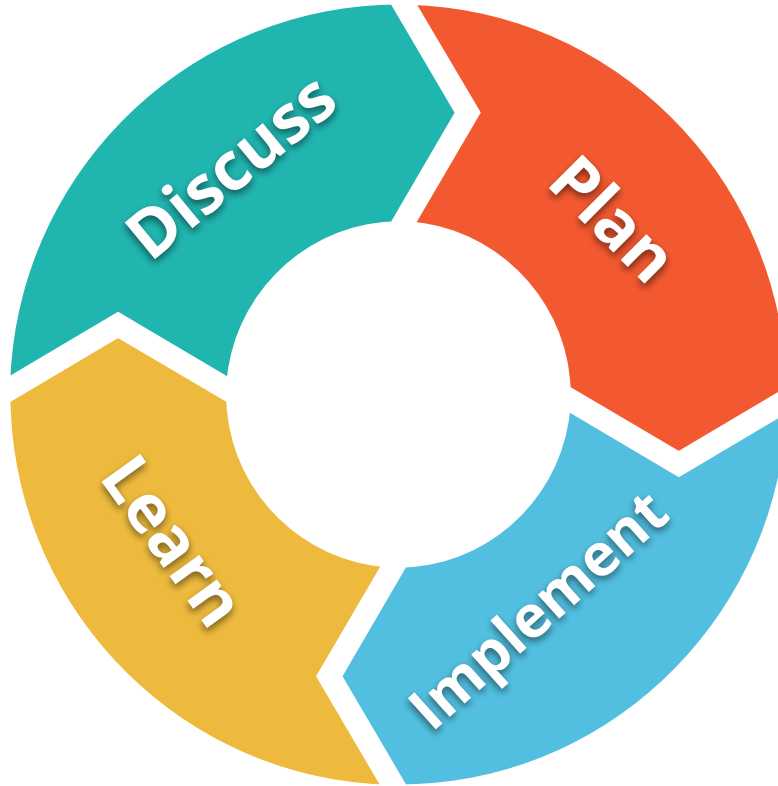
Community Connections

Build lasting relationships

1. Common Purpose
2. Complementary Content
3. Communication
4. Customized Partnerships
5. Continuous Improvement and Sustainability



Continuous Sustainability Efforts



Continuously evaluate throughout the process

- Ask for feedback (from families and staff)
- Evaluate feedback
- Adjust plan as necessary



Activity

Elementary School

Our program consists of 25 second graders that come from a variety of schools in District 161. This month students are learning about the solar system and how our planet fits within our galaxy. Program staff have decided to explore this subject further and allow students to learn more about this field in the OST setting.

Middle School

16 students ages ranging from 11 to 14 come to our afterschool program three days a week throughout the school year. Several students share that they participated in a career aptitude test during the school day and they are discouraged by their results- many of which do not include a four year university.

High School

A large portion of high school students in our afterschool program (about 40%) are children of immigrant families. Many of these students will be the first to apply for college and live in households that do not primarily speak English. They have expressed concerns over the application processes for college and student aid.



Let's Share!



Questions?

Closing

From the Afterschool Alliance, we know that:

- Family engagement encourages **student growth** and is associated with **positive outcomes** in a child's education
- Afterschool programs can help **bridge the gap** between families and schools
- ACT Now is here to help **eliminate the barriers** for effective parent engagement



Thank you!

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to complete the evaluation

