

Recommended Roles and Responsibilities for Supporting School, Family and Community Partnerships

Early Childhood Programs

1. Policy

School-based programs should follow guidelines for schools. Other early childhood programs should develop a policy that outlines the commitment to and intentions for school, family involvement *and* a plan to take action on this policy.

Essential Practices

- Include parents, teachers, administrators and community representatives in writing and implementation of the center policy and plan.
- Review policy and plan annually.

2. Staffing

Assign an individual to coordinate activities, professional development, and facilitate the development and implementation of the plan.

Essential Practices

- Coordinator ensures all staff have received school, family and community partnerships training.
- Coordinator assists classroom teachers daily with issues and questions with families.
- Coordinator acts as an extra supportive resource for families, along with their own child's classroom teacher.

3. Funding

Budget funds for the development and implementation of the plan.

Essential Practices

- Build local partnerships to provide resources to support center strategies.

4. Educator Competency

Ensure all teachers and administrators have up-to-date training in effective engagement of families.

Essential Practices

- Seek out training opportunities that will equip teachers, parents and community members for working together collaboratively.
- Embed professional development on school, family and community partnerships into school practices.
- Align professional development to school, family and community partnership needs and strategies.
- Offer parent and community leadership and school improvement participation training.



5. Research and Evaluation

Create an evaluation plan to track the effectiveness and impact of school, family and community partnerships plan.

Essential Practices

- Collect and analyze data on program implementation, such as the quantity and quality of programs and who was reached by the program.
- Collect and analyze data that lets you know if the program is having the desired lasting impact

6. Tools and Products

Provide teachers with the tools they need to partner effectively with families and support the learning connection between home and school.

Essential Practices

- Ensure that teachers and administrators are easily accessible to parents.
- Provide teachers with tools to use with families as they develop home-school relationships to support learning and healthy development.

7. Community Connections and Relationships

Partner with other agencies, schools and community groups to reach families of young children.

Essential Practices

- Partner with local health care providers and other community agencies to reach out to families of young children with information about local early childhood learning opportunities.
- Partner with local schools for positive transition services for children and families.
- Partner with local businesses and community organizations to provide a comprehensive system of learning supports for families.