



## Session Summary

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### Engaging Families to Support Student Learning Co-Creating A District-wide System of Support

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#### Overview

ARP ESSER funds provide an opportunity to co-create an evidence-based, systemic approach and the infrastructure required to support high-impact family engagement. Investing in district-wide systems of support will not only help accelerate student learning, but also will strengthen families and stabilize communities.

#### What is High-Impact Family Engagement?

High-impact family engagement is a full, equal, and equitable partnership among families, educators, and community partners to promote children's learning and development from birth through college and career.

[Connecticut's Framework for Family Engagement](#)

#### District-wide Systems of Support

A district-wide approach to family engagement recognizes that authentic partnerships with families are not a collection of activities but rather a through line in all improvement goals, and a hallmark of equitable education. A systemic approach to family engagement is built on a co-created definition of family engagement, which is embraced by leadership across the organization, embedded in all strategies, and sustained with resources and infrastructure.

**Tools:** [Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships](#); [Taking It to the Next Level: Strengthening and Sustaining Family Engagement through Integrated, Systemic Practice](#)

#### Building School Capacity

A school-wide culture of family engagement begins with trusting relationships between schools and families. Schools that build and maintain authentic relationships with families have an expectation that staff commit to family engagement. To support that commitment, schools

must invest in high-quality professional development and time for educator-family collaboration. Key practices include: [shifting deficit-based mindsets](#), [relational home visits](#), [conversations about learning](#), [demystifying data](#), [shifting from low- to high-impact practices](#), and [gathering high-quality feedback](#).

**Tools:** [The School Leader Tool: Building Your School-wide Approach to Family Engagement](#); [Relationship Building Toolkit](#)

#### Support Families as Assets and Leaders

Schools that view families as assets engage them in dialogue about their interests, concerns, and needs, and include them in designing family engagement initiatives. Leadership training supports parents' abilities to build relationships, understand educational systems, and guide other parents.

**Tool:** [The School/District Family Leadership Framework](#)

For more resources see [AccelerateCT Family and Community Connections](#)