

STATE SUPPORT TEAM REGION 7

ENGAGING FAMILIES IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Family engagement is essential to student achievement. There is a growing body of research that shows the benefits of strong family engagement in schools as it relates to students' academic success. Schools with strong family engagement policies and practices have improved academic achievement, stronger student motivation, better socioemotional skills, less discipline referrals, reduction in absenteeism, lower students drop out rates, and higher teacher retention rates to name a few. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires districts and schools to engage parents and families. A

Over 50 years of research links student achievement and parent engagement.

family engagement policy should be developed in partnership with families. Schools need to build their capacity to engage families and evaluate if their practices are effective.

Family engagement is not a program; rather it is a practice which requires two-way communication, commitment, and support. Family engagement goes beyond just parent involvement. Typical parent involvement tends to put the responsibility on the parents and is primarily dictated by what the school wants. Schools using the perspective of parent

involvement view parents and families as clients. Whereas, family engagement involves all family members or adult caregivers not just parents and actively supports a child's learning and development through a collaborative exchange of information, decision making, and skills. It views the family as partners and builds a relationship which results in a meaningful partnership. A first step toward building a district's capacity to engage families is to define family engagement as a staff.

Research shows school improvement efforts will fail unless they integrate the essential component of family engagement (Bryk 2010; Mapp, 2016). Here at SST7 we are committed to embedding family engagement in all of our leadership meetings and creating a family engagement contact list for the region. To gain further information on family engagement, please view these resources: <http://www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement?src=rn>, <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Family-and-Community-Engagement/Getting-Parents-Involved/Models-for-Family-and-Community-Engagement>, & <https://www.sps186.org/downloads/table/13040/6Ty pesJ.Epstien.pdf>, www.sst7.org

OHIO CENTER FOR AUTISM AND LOW INCIDENCE (OCALI)

Check out the two new Centers Powered by OCALI:

- The Outreach Center for Deafness and Blindness: <http://deafandblindoutreach.org/>
- Assistive Technology and Accessible Educational Materials Center: <http://ataem.org/>

And don't forget that OCALI has an extensive Lending Library, free:

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT TRAINING

AASCD Training is required for anyone who is administering or is a second rater for the Alternate Assessment for the first time this school year (2016/17). **The full day training (8:30 – 3:00) is required. Register in STARS!**

Dates/Locations:

- December 14, 2016: NCOESC Tiffin
January 11, 2017: NCOESC Marion
January 12, 2017: Fredericktown Board of Education office (117 Columbus Road, Fredericktown, 43019)
January 19, 2017: SST 7 Mansfield
January 24, 2017: SST 7 Mansfield

COMBINED LEADERSHIP MEETING

On November 10, 2016, 30 leaders from Region 7 school districts came together to learn about Integrated Comprehensive Systems (ICS). This framework guides leaders in developing systems so that ALL learners' needs are met. Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Special Education Directors, and Parent Mentors engaged in activities to reflect upon their current system and how it might be improved to meet the needs of students with a wide range of skills and abilities. The ICS framework is the work of Dr. Colleen Capper and Dr. Elise Frattura. Districts in attendance were: Crestview, Mohawk, Bucyrus, Mansfield City, Pioneer Career & Technology Center, Mid-Ohio ESC, Northmor, Mapleton, Lexington, Highland Local, Knox County Career Center, Mt. Vernon, East Knox, Ashland, Shelby and Centerburg and North Central Ohio ESC. Please plan to attend our next Combined Leadership Meeting on **February 28** (Register in STARS)! Some quotes from the participants:

"Keep up the GREAT work you do with helping schools create a vision for success!! Your facilitation, professional development and hands-on commitment is evident and appreciated! What a blessing to be involved with the process and Region 7!" Bucyrus City Schools

"Be realistic – Aim high – Build what your district believes is the perfect situation and work back! Stick with it – time, lots of time. Commit, not just comply!" Northmor Elementary

"Be optimistic, but be realistic!" Centerburg Local Schools

"I wanted to thank you for yesterday. I am really getting my head wrapped around special education and all of the ties with content curriculum. I am really excited to utilize my position to work in ALL classrooms. I plan on speaking with the admin team to discuss some of my "ahas" on comprehensive system change. SST 7 will be an amazing support as we work to move our district forward!" Crestview Local Schools

"Attending the Combined Leadership Meeting yesterday was inspiring and refreshing. There are many difficult and challenging days that take a toll on me, and yesterday gave me the energy to keep fighting the good fight." Highland Local Schools

UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING:

Do you want to help teachers plan instruction that is accessible to ALL learners?

Are you seeking a framework within which to make instructional decisions?

Perhaps you have heard of UDL through the newly signed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), or through your work with the Decision Framework.

Regardless of where you are in your understanding or implementation of UDL, this training is for you!

You will learn about UDL while also learning how to train others in your district.

District Team Training: February 6 and 13, 2017 (must attend both days) 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM, at SST 7. Register in STARS

UDL Coaches Meeting: February 21, 2017: 8:30 – 11:30, at SST 7. Register in STARS

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS AND INTERVENTIONS:

*PBIS Classroom Management: January 31, 2017. 8:30 – 3:30. Register in STARS

*PBIS Coaches Meeting: February 7, 2017. 8:30 – 3:30. Register in STARS

*Training for new building teams will be February 2 and 9, 2017 from 8:30 – 3:30. Register in STARS.



CONGRATULATIONS PBIS TEAMS



Northmor Delivery Service Models. Last year to this year.

PLEASE SEE OUR SST7 CALENDAR FOR
A LISTING OF PD OPPORTUNITIES

Career Advising Workshop Opportunities

Career Advising/Ohio Means Jobs 1.0: February. 1

Career Advising 2.0 March 3

Register in STARS

Ohio Department of Education Launches Mobile App

Ohio families can get the latest news from a new mobile app. Families can access resources, report cards, receive notifications and updates.

It is available for free in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Transition 1.0

- The January 26th training date has been cancelled. Please email Julie at jfrankl@ncoesc.org if you still have people who serve students on IEPs age 14+ who haven't been trained with the updates in the last three years.

Crawford-Richland Transition Council

- Three area schools are completing commercials to begin airing soon—we'll have more updates at the next meeting on February 16th. Join us ☺!
- Have you utilized the partners for any of your in school or parent partnership training needs in the soft skills areas of communication, employment, or social skills? See our brochure, here.
- Continuing with the topic of transportation in February as well as updates on SPARC Talent Development Programming.

OLTS

- OLTS training for districts in Exit and Follow Up status for the 2016-2017 school year will be held here at Region 7 SST on the morning of April 3rd, 2017. Watch your emails for details and/or contact Julie with questions about your district status.

Secondary Transition and College/Career Readiness Updates

Transition 2.0

- The October training date in partnership with Employment First was a great success and several area schools are now working to wrap the Evidence-Based Practices into their work.
- We are working on an agency panel for the next training date on February 17th. See Julie with questions or input for the agenda and register on STARS.

Transition Symposium

- Thank you to Wynford, Mansfield City, Mid-Ohio ESC, Knox ESC, Lexington, Crestview, Marion and Foundations Academy for sending representatives to the Second Annual Transition Symposium at Kent University.
- Thank you as well to Dr. Orvosh-Kamenski as well as CR Transition Council Members Tyler Shinaberry and Kodey Kreglow for presenting on great partnerships happening in Region 7.

