



# *52 CARD PICK-UP*

***Deliver Strong Family Engagement Events***

# Introductions

## Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education

- 4 Grant Cohorts
  - 20 active Sites (Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)
  - 15 Site Coordinators
  - North Central Illinois rural communities
  - FY 20 served 1803
  - Each site offers 4 family events/parent education events per year
  - Offer Virtual, in-person, and combination 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs
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- Kim Sellers, Project Director
  - Lisa Brackett, Coordinator & Parent/Family Liaison
  - Terrie Landwehr, Program Development Specialist

# Objectives for today:

- Share 52 family engagement event ideas
- Provide strategies and best practices to deliver Quality family engagement events
- Engage in break-outs that model remote family engagement events

# Why is Parent/Family Engagement So Important

Parent and Family support are a **CRITICAL** factor in promoting student success.

Afterschool programs need to create partnerships between school, home and their community. These partnerships should be **INTENTIONAL** and **MEANINGFUL**.

With a focus on fostering more meaningful and personal connections - afterschool programs, the school, community and families all work together to provide the support and structure to make decisions that will benefit the students' achievement.

A strong partnership between home and school has been shown to positively impact student performance as well as empower parents to take a leadership role in their student's education.

***“Good parenting and family involvement in schools are essential if children are going to flourish and fulfill their dreams.” -Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education***

# **Afterschool programs provide unique opportunities to help build that bridge between the school and home.**

Night and weekend events

Off site events

Better connections with parents

Staff and resources

Customize to meet the needs of families and the community

Partner with school events

Bring in community partners

Creativity and engagement

# What does meaningful Parent/Family Engagement look like?

- Create a welcoming environment
- Make initial connections
- Assess family needs and preferences
- Organize the structure of your program to encourage parent/family engagement
- Be mindful of language and cultural diversity
- Establish opportunities for parents to showcase their skills and knowledge
- Create opportunities for parents to connect and build networks
- Provide multiple opportunities for parent and family engagement
- Showcase the students
- Bring in community partners and share resources
- Partner with the school (Title I programs)
- Provide opportunities for parent input and feedback (surveys)

# What does meaningful Parent/Family Engagement look like?

Remote Activities and Educational Opportunities

Take Home Activity Packets and Informational Materials/Community Resources

In Person Parent Education and Family Events

The parenting component will include a variety of opportunities for parents and guardians to increase their parenting skills, employability potential, and support for learning at home. Informational materials sent home and provided to the communities regarding these opportunities will be available in both English and Spanish.

# Barriers

Recognizing some of the biggest barriers (real or perceived) to family engagement will help to develop the most effective strategies to increase parent/family involvement and enable parents to feel more connected to and supported by the afterschool program.

- Time
- Availability of childcare
- Negative attitude of the school
- Language/cultural barriers
- Lack of interest
- Transportation
- Lack of information



# Marketing Strategies to a Successful Event

- Posters & Flyers - bold & colorful
- Social Media - Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter
- School Media - Use the school's social media: district text, Facebook, Message boards
- Generate Interest & buzz - Use pictures and/or videos from a previous successful event
- Go offline - In person targeting, get on the phone and call or text
- Dangle a carrot - Extra credit, make it a competition



# Parent Education Event Successes

- Google/Technology/School Information System Training
- Guest Speakers (In person/Zoom)
- Parenting/Social Services
- Health & Nutrition
- College & Career Planning
- ESL Trainings
- GED Preparation/Citizenship classes
- Resume Writing/Interviewing
- Welding Programs

Parent Education Events must be must be **MEANINGFUL** and **ONGOING**.

What is the educational component? What new **knowledge or skill** are you providing to your parents?

# Family Event Successes

- Take Home Packets
- Virtual Experiences
- Museum Tours
- Field Trips
- Zoo Experiences
- Zoom Meetings/In Person Events
- Game Night
- STEM Night
- Reading Night
- Cooking Night
- Physical Education

Family Events should be designed to bring families together with their children learning a new skill or participating in a fun, educational activity.

# Experience a Remote Parent Event

- Room 1 - Family Trivia Night (Cindy Ehnle)
- Room 2 - Independent Learning Folders (Darla Ball)
- Room 3 - Stick Together (Amy Jackson)
- Room 4 - Scavenger Hunt (Pat Corwin)

# Reflection of Break-Outs

- *What did you think?*
- *Challenges*
- *Successes*



# Contact us:

Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education 309-937-7890

Kim Sellers

Project Director

[ksellers@bhsroe.org](mailto:ksellers@bhsroe.org)

Lisa Brackett

Program Coordinator

[lbrackett@bhsroe.org](mailto:lbrackett@bhsroe.org)

Terrie Landwehr

Program Development Specialist

[tlandwehr@bhsroe.org](mailto:tlandwehr@bhsroe.org)