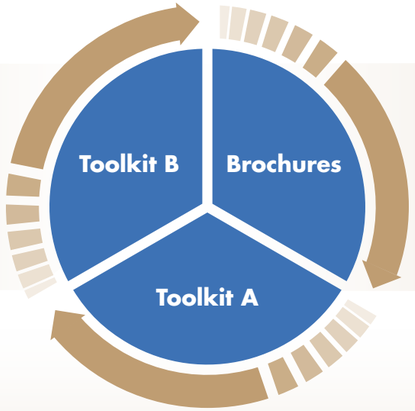
The Advisory Council is developing an ongoing plan of family engagement that will support families, schools, and districts.

Toolkit B
Provides policies, laws, consolidated reporting – an A to Z reference manual



Brochures
Tied to TLC teacher/ administrator evaluations

Toolkit A
Provides best family engagement practices, ready made, for stakeholders to use

Advisory Council on Family Engagement Members

www.nevadapife.com/advisory-council

Barbara Clark
Chair; School Board Trustee Metro

Dr. William "Toby" Holmes
Vice Chair; Public School Representative Southern Nevada

Denette Corrales
Private Industry Representative

Assemblywoman Olivia Diaz
Appointed by Speaker of the House

David Flatt
Parent Representative Southern Nevada

Teri Jamin
School Board Trustee Rural Nevada

Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Appointed by Majority Leader

John Kirtley
Nevada PTA Representative

Deanna LeBlanc
Public School Representative Northern Nevada

Leticia Servin
Parent Representative Northern Nevada

For Further Information:

OFFICE OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
LEARNING & PROMOTING EXCELLENCE · ENSURING OPPORTUNITY · FACILITATING

Monie Byers, *Family Engagement Consultant*
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ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Advisory Council on Family Engagement & Nevada Department of Education Office of Family Engagement

More than 30 years of research indicates that family engagement is key to student achievement, which is the primary goal of the Legislature, the Department of Education, and the 17 school districts. The Advisory Council has been established to build the scaffolding necessary to unify various federal and state requirements for family engagement implementation, assessment, and accountability. (NRS 385.600)

Standards for family engagement were developed based on decades of research. Nevada's state and district policies are based on these six standards. The Advisory Council continues to build the framework for family engagement based on these six standards.

The Advisory Council will provide researched and effective family engagement practices to schools and districts. Current knowledge and research on family engagement will be shared through a database of resources to help inform school practices.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IS KEY TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FAMILY ENGAGEMENT'S WORK PLAN

Professional Learning Opportunities for Teachers

In partnership with the Regional Professional Development Program opportunities to support teachers with family engagement will increase.

Researched & Effective Family Engagement

Schools and districts will be supported with current knowledge and research on family engagement through a database of resources to inform our school practices.

Connecting & Evaluating Family Engagement Across Programs

Family Engagement is a requirement of many state and federal grants. The Council will collaborate with various partners to provide feedback and recommend areas for collaboration across programs.

District Advisory Councils

All districts will have the opportunity and the support they need to create advisory councils and share decisions with families.

School Policies for Family Engagement

All schools will have an opportunity to set a vision for family engagement and communicate that vision to families through school site policies.

Standards Guides for Parents

Schools will be supported with the materials and information they need in order to communicate academic expectations to every family.

State Summit on Family Engagement

Continued biannual opportunities to grow our knowledge and professionally learn as a state on recent family engagement practices will continue through the State Summit on Family Engagement.

Teacher Licensure for Family Engagement

Beginning in the 2013-14, school year all new teachers receiving a Nevada teaching credential will have increased background knowledge on family engagement.

School & District Improvement Plans

Clearer definitions of family engagement in school and district improvement plans will help focus our energies on meaningful family engagement.

Vision for Family Engagement in Nevada

During the 2011 legislative session, AB224 was passed and created a new vision for family engagement in Nevada. Above are some of the ways the Advisory Council on Family Engagement will be working with partners across the state to build a stronger educational system with family engagement.

BUILDING A STRONGER EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WITH FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

1 Welcoming All Families into the School Community

a. A positive educational environment is established for all students and their families by treating families in respectful and culturally sensitive ways .

b. Schools value, respect, and welcome families and see them as assets in supporting student learning.

Examples:

- *Parent-help kiosk*
- *Home visits/neighborhood walks*

2 Communicating Effectively

a. There is a system for meaningful, consistent home/classroom two-way communication in place.

b. Schools communicate with families in a manner and format that is accessible and easy to understand.

Examples:

- *Track teacher-family contact frequency and content*
- *Work with local parent groups—develop communication guidelines*

3 Supporting Student Success

a. Data is used to show families how their children are doing and help families support student learning at home.

b. Families receive continuous, individualized, and actionable communication about their child's learning and progress towards goals.

Examples:

- *Ask parents to actively review student data*
- *Institute student-lead parent-teacher conferences*

4 Speaking Up for Every Child

a. Schools/Teachers work with families to take advantage of resources and programs that support student success (tutoring, special education, ELL services, etc.).

b. Schools provide technical assistance and empower families to navigate complex systems (GT, AP, IEPs, parent portal systems for grades and attendance).

Examples:

- *Develop a parent bill of rights with a student achievement focus*
- *Use handbooks and websites to share school policies*

5 Sharing Power

a. Schools collaborate with the families to establish an equal voice in all decisions that affect their child.

b. Schools identify and connect families from different cultural background (representing the school's population) to participate in parent councils/groups.

Examples:

- *Use annual surveys to gather parent input*
- *Include diverse parents on School Improvement Planning (SIP) team*

6 Collaborating with Community

a. Schools inform families about services, make referrals to programs, and plan activities that provide expanded learning opportunities.

b. Schools connect students and families to opportunities in the district and community.

Examples:

- *Encourage student community service day*
- *Host a community breakfast*

For additional information on best practices in family engagement, please see:

www.NevadaPIFE.com/programs-intitiatives