

National Family Engagement Month

Suggested Activities and Resources

November 2023

November is National Family Engagement Month! This month reminds us that families are children's first and most important teachers, advocates, and nurturers. Over 35 years of research shows that the most effective way to increase student achievement is for families to be actively involved in the education of their children. The importance of family engagement will be highlighted during the month of November as we celebrate and strengthen family-school partnerships together.

This toolkit provides opportunities for a strengths-based approach to family engagement as schools celebrate family-school partnerships throughout the month of November and beyond.



Ideas for Schools

- **Utilize** FCPS graphics to post opportunities on social media posting using #FCPSEngageFamilies or [#FamilyEngagementMonth](#) and tag [@FSP_FCPS](#) & [@FRC_FCPS](#)
- **Host** a Principal or Family Coffee.
- **Mobilize** family volunteers to support a school effort.
- **Invite** families to visit classrooms to share diverse family traditions during morning meetings.
- **Celebrate** National Family Engagement Day on **November 16, 2023**, by welcoming families to eat lunch or volunteer at their child's school.
- **Write** thank you letters or postcards to families for National Family Engagement Day on **November 16, 2023**.
- Have students and families **create** a family project to create home-school connections.
- **Encourage** teachers to send a positive note or postcard home to families or one class period at the secondary levels.
- **Display** family-focused library books for students to check out during the month.
- Encourage staff to check out a book from the [Family Resource Center Library](#) on family engagement.
- Have students **interview** a family member about their family traditions and customs.
- Encourage students and families to **develop** a family crest to recognize their family's uniqueness.
- **Host** a Family Fun Night where families and staff continue to foster authentic relationships.
- **Host** a [Family Math](#) learning opportunity for families to support math development at home.
- **Tips** on creating family engagement opportunities: <https://hub.fcps.edu/family-resource-center-frc>
- **Host** a [ParentCamp](#).
- **Post** on the school marquee to emphasize your commitment to family and school partnerships.
- **Share** classroom expectations and student learning goals openly with parents and ask them to do the same.
- **Gather** feedback from families and students on current and potential school workshop topics to identify ways to support social and emotional learning.



- **Create** a family bulletin board (online or in the building) to highlight school and community events.
- **Provide** professional learning grounded in a [strengths-based approach to family engagement](#).
- **Practice** and **model** two-way inclusive communication with your colleagues and staff at school to engage families.
- End your Morning Meeting or Advisory with an [Optimistic Closure](#) focused on continuing the learning with families at home.

Ideas for Families

- [November calendar](#) of ideas to share with families.
- **Collaborate** with your parent organization (PTA, PTO, Booster) to host a [ParentCamp](#).
- **Visit** your local library or go online to get a [library card](#) for your child.
- **Practice** digital safety and responsibility with your child. [Ideas and tip sheets](#).
- [Quick Tips for Parents Library](#)
- **Commit** to volunteer at your child's school three times this school year.
- **Write** letters to school staff for National Family Engagement Day on **November 16, 2023**.
- **Review** your child's (grades 7 – 12) Academic Career Plan on [Naviance](#) and partner with their school counselor in developing goals.
- **Ask** your child what they discuss in [Morning Meetings and Advisory](#).
- **Discuss** the FCPS [Portrait of a Graduate](#) skills with your child.

Additional Resources for Schools and Families

- Post experiences to our Twitter feed [@FSP FCPS](#) and [@FRC FCPS](#)
- [FCPS Family Resource Center Webinar Registration and Schedule](#)
- [FCPS Family Resource Center Workshops & Webinars on YouTube](#)
- [FCPS Family Resource Center Digital Resources](#)
- [FCPS Student Safety and Wellness Resources](#)
- [FCPS Social Emotional Learning Resources](#)
- [FCPS Technology Resources](#)
- [National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#)
- [Center for Family Involvement \(VCU, Partnership for People with Disabilities\)](#)
- [Parent Education Advocacy Training Center \(PEATC\)](#)
- [FCPS Multilingual Podcast](#)
- [Quick Tips Family Engagement Library](#)
- [TTAC Online Resources](#)



Need additional support? Please contact one of us!

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