

CONNECTED TOGETHER & STRONGER THAN EVER NATIONAL FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2021

HELD JUNE 1 – 4, 2021

CPAC GENERAL MEETING PRESENTS NATIONAL FACE CONFERENCE

BY JIMMIE BROWN AND SHIRLEY AUBIN

OVERVIEW OF THE *VIRTUAL* EVENT

- The [Institute for Educational Leadership](#) (IEL) recognizes the importance of family and community engagement as an essential element in efforts to improve outcomes for children cradle to career. Successfully engaging families, strengthening family-school partnerships and aligning efforts requires building the capacity of everyone involved. The ramifications of multiple crises – public health, racial justice, and economic – have magnified and exacerbated challenges in our most vulnerable communities. As the pandemic unfolded through various stages, schools and districts with good engagement practices and deep community partnerships were in a better position to respond to the crisis, innovate and build on promising approaches.
- The 2021 National Family and Community Engagement Conference provides an opportunity to highlight innovation and high-impact strategies; and this year, **we are excited to highlight exemplary family engagement work in [The School District of Philadelphia!](#)** Join us as state leaders, school and district leaders, administrators, educators, community-based organizations, researchers and parent leaders come together to focus on solutions that enhance and expand engagement through family-school-community partnerships. With pre-conference sessions, plenaries, workshops, deep dive sessions and more, participants will be immersed in many examples of high-impact engagement work taking place across the country.



SESSION STRANDS

- **The 2021 National Family & Community Engagement Conference** was a field-building, personal and professional capacity building experience designed to reinvigorate the spirit of the attendees and equip them with confidence and capabilities in knowledge areas such as:

PARENT LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

- Parent Leadership and Advocacy are essential for sharing power and ensuring that school and school improvement is inclusive of all families.

EARLY LEARNING AND LITERACY

- Engaging families in learning with their young children helps ensure that they are reading on level by Grade 3 and on trajectory for life success.

PROMOTE INCLUSION, ENSURE EQUITY AND CREATE OPPORTUNITY

- Equity and inclusive education addresses the need for authentic inclusion for diverse students and students with disabilities and their families.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND TRUST

- Community partnerships and connections foster social relationships and resiliency for youth and families.

INTEGRATED SYSTEMIC APPROACHES

- System practice and policy helps ensure that family engagement becomes an integral part of education through alignment at all levels of practice and planning.

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND DATA COLLECTION

- Connecting research, policy and practice is critical to improving and sustaining outcomes for children, youth and families

EDUCATION LEADING TO EMPLOYMENT & CAREER TRAINING (ELECT) & POLICY 234

Engaging Young Families with promising practices with Two- Generation Impact: – to assist pregnant, custodial & noncustodial of young students that are under 22, to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Board of Education Policy 234 – Pregnant, Parenting & Married Students:

- Pregnant and parenting students have the same rights as all other students. Your school must provide:
 1. Adjustments to Continue Your Education & Extracurriculars
 2. Excused Leave after giving birth
 3. Uniform Adjustment
 4. Chest/Breastfeeding & Pump Accommodations
 5. Excused Absences & Tardiness
 6. Access to Support Services
 7. Confidentiality

EDUCATION LEADING TO EMPLOYMENT & CAREER TRAINING (ELECT)

- **The objective** – To facilitate district-wide implementation of Policy 234: Pregnant/Parenting/Married Student Provisions, with fidelity, to create a culture in schools that is both responsive to and supportive of the educational rights and needs of their youngest families
- **FACE's Approach** – If we demystify expectations through targeted training and technical assistance, partner with schools and community stakeholders to disseminate messaging, and provide tangible tools, we can build capacity in schools to champion the educational attainment of pregnant and parenting students.



Bluetooth

The Process



THE PROCESS

We used the newly expanded policy as a foundation and engaged stakeholders including parenting students, community partners, and District personnel to formulate a three-phase approach. Phase I: Outreach and Education, Phase II: Implementation and Technical Assistance, and Phase III: Assessment and Maintenance.

Our process involved these three major strategies:



STRATEGY #1

Develop digestible collateral and trainings



STRATEGY #2

Engage internal and external partners



STRATEGY #3

Create innovative programs and tangible tools



Bluetooth

Policy Implementation



KEY PARTNERS



District Offices



Community-Based Organizations



City Departments



Healthcare System

DELIVERABLES & OUTCOMES

STRATEGY #1

Education and Outreach

STRATEGY #2

Stakeholder Engagement

STRATEGY #3

Create, Innovate, and Elevate



Bluetooth

ELECT Core Program Services



- **Case Management Services** (*school, community, and home-based*)
- **Attendance Interventions, Academic Support and Dropout Prevention**
- **Access to Child Care and Transportation Services**
- **Goal Setting through Motivational Interviews**
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Services**
- **Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors**
- **Group & Individualized Education across 6 Content Areas**
- **Year-Round Case Management, Home Visits, Family Engagement**



Bluetooth

ELECT Fatherhood Services



Just the Facts

Dad's Involvement during pregnancy positively influences health outcomes for mom, dad, and baby.

SOURCE: Widarsson, M., Engstrom, G., Tyden, T., Lundberg, P., & Hammar, L. (2015). 'Paddling upstream': Fathers' involvement during pregnancy as described by expectant fathers and mothers. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 27, 1059-1068.

National Fatherhood Initiative

FATHER FACTS
SEVENTH EDITION **7**