



REL Southeast
Director's Email

August 2023

Greetings from the REL Southeast,

We've known for quite a while that students whose parents are actively engaged in their schooling experience more positive academic outcomes.¹ This highlights the importance of building strong school-to-family connections and promoting family engagement. By establishing a collaborative and goal-oriented process involving teachers, schools, families, and children, we can cultivate positive relationships that honor and support the crucial parent-child bonds. This approach not only contributes to a child's healthy development, school readiness, and overall well-being but also involves culturally and linguistically responsive relationship building.

This month, REL Southeast would like to encourage educators, administrators, and families to explore resources around these topics from the Institute of Education Sciences. We hope you find these materials informative and useful, and as always, thank you for helping to improve educational outcomes for every student in our region.

With gratitude,

Dr. Nicole Patton Terry
Director, REL Southeast

¹Reece, C. A., Staudt, M., Ogle, A. (2013). Lessons learned from a neighborhood-based collaboration to increase parent engagement. *School Community Journal*, 23(2) p207-226.
<https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1028862>



Teacher's Guide to Supporting Family Involvement in Foundational Reading Skills

The *Teacher's Guide to Supporting Family Involvement in Foundational Reading Skills* was designed by [REL Southeast](#) to assist teachers in supporting out-of-school literacy activities that are aligned to classroom instruction, informed by student needs, grounded in evidence-based practices, and facilitated by ongoing parent-teacher communication. It provides a framework for literacy

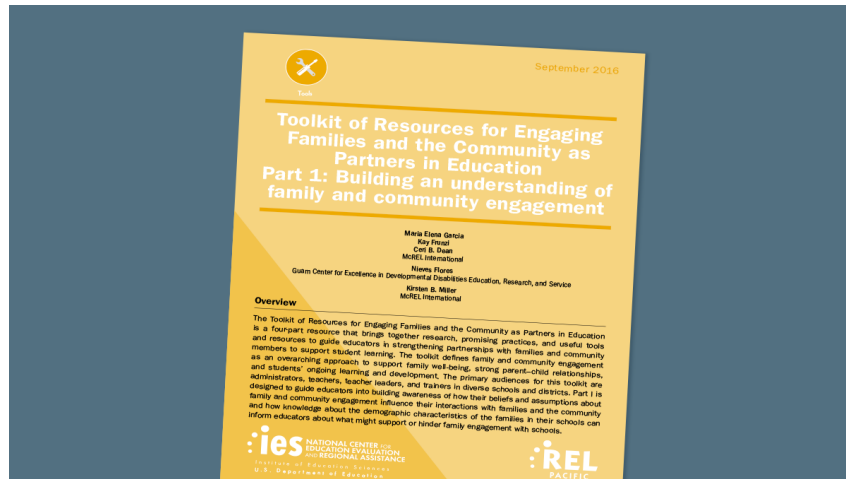
support activities presented during schools' family literacy nights and parent-teacher conferences.

[Click here to explore the Kindergarten Teacher's Guide](#)

[Click here to explore the First Grade Teacher's Guide](#)

[Click here to explore the Second Grade Teacher's Guide](#)

[Click here to explore the Third Grade Teacher's Guide](#)



Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Families and the Community as Partners in Education

The Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Families and the Community as Partners in Education is a four-part resource developed by [REL Pacific](#) that brings together research, promising practices, and useful tools and resources to guide educators in strengthening partnerships with families and community members to support student learning. The toolkit defines family and community engagement as an overarching approach to support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships, and students' ongoing learning and development.

[Click here to explore the toolkit.](#)



6 Strategies for Effective School Family Engagement Events

Enhancing students' learning, social competencies, and emotional well-being relies on fostering positive relationships with both families and teachers. When families feel a sense of connection and inclusion in their children's education, it benefits everyone involved. School-based family engagement revolves around activities, events, and effective communication between schools and families. In a recent blog post, [REL Northwest](#) has outlined six strategies to improve family

attendance at school events and to make event planning and family outreach more intentional and effective.

[Click here to read the blog.](#)



Four Strategies to Increase Student Attendance Through Personalized Family Messaging

Regular student attendance is of utmost importance for academic progress and overall student achievement. In this blog post, [REL Northwest](#) explores four strategies to increase student attendance through personalized messaging.

[Click here to read the blog.](#)

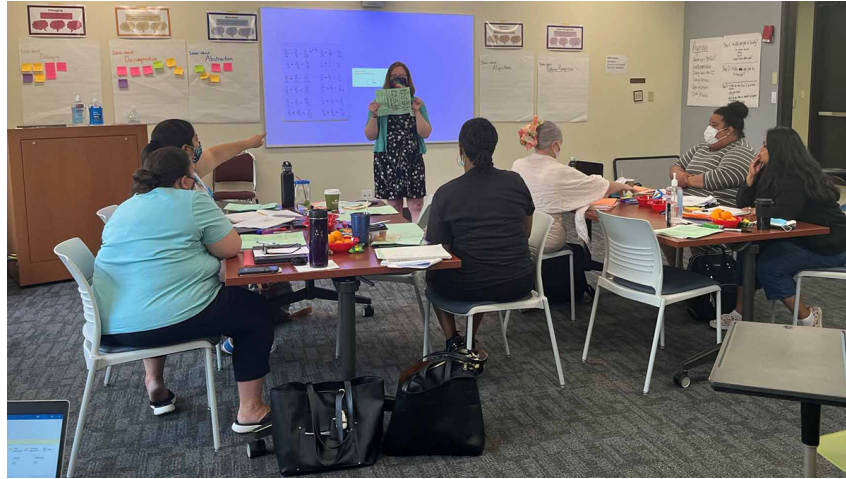


Community organizations supporting the development of children's early literacy skills.

It Takes a Village: How Community Organizations, Schools, and Families can Work Together to Support Early Childhood Literacy

Produced collaboratively by [REL Midwest](#) and the Chicago public broadcasting station WTTW, this compelling documentary explores the vital role of community organizations in fostering the early literacy skills of children.

[Click here to watch the documentary.](#)



The Regional Education Lab Program: Making a Difference in Literacy and Math Outcomes

In the first of a four-part blog series, [NCEE](#) highlights four REL research and development projects focused on strengthening math and literacy outcomes.

[Click here to read the blog.](#)



Building the Reading Brain

Produced by [PBS WKAR](#), this documentary explores the science of reading and offers strategies to prepare children for the intricate process of reading.

[Click here to watch the documentary.](#)

