

Moving Toward Systemic, Integrated, Responsive, and Sustainable Family Engagement Approaches

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NATIVE AMERICAN
PARENT TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE CENTER –
NAPTAC



Objectives

Participants will have:

- A better understanding of the benefits of family engagement
- A better understanding of systemic, integrated, responsive, and sustainable family engagement approaches
- Some strategies/activities to use in their own context
- Resources

Why Family Engagement?

- It's required under IDEA.
- Parents are students' most consistent advocates and teachers.
- Shared perspectives and thinking lead to a better understanding of students, fewer misunderstandings, and more creative solutions.
- Positive relationships lead to greater trust and less stress.
- Family engagement is an early conflict resolution strategy and may reduce the need for more costly formal dispute resolution options.
- When parents and educators partner, schools and students do better.

Meaningful Family Engagement



What does it
look like?

How would you rate your organization's family engagement efforts so far?

- A. Our organization has not prioritized family engagement and we don't have much in place.
- B. We have some measures in place (e.g., parent training, communication mechanisms) but haven't seen much improvement.
- C. We have had some success with family engagement and are looking to increase our effectiveness.
- D. Family engagement is a priority. Our organization uses systemic, integrated, responsive, and sustainable family engagement approaches. We could be giving this training!

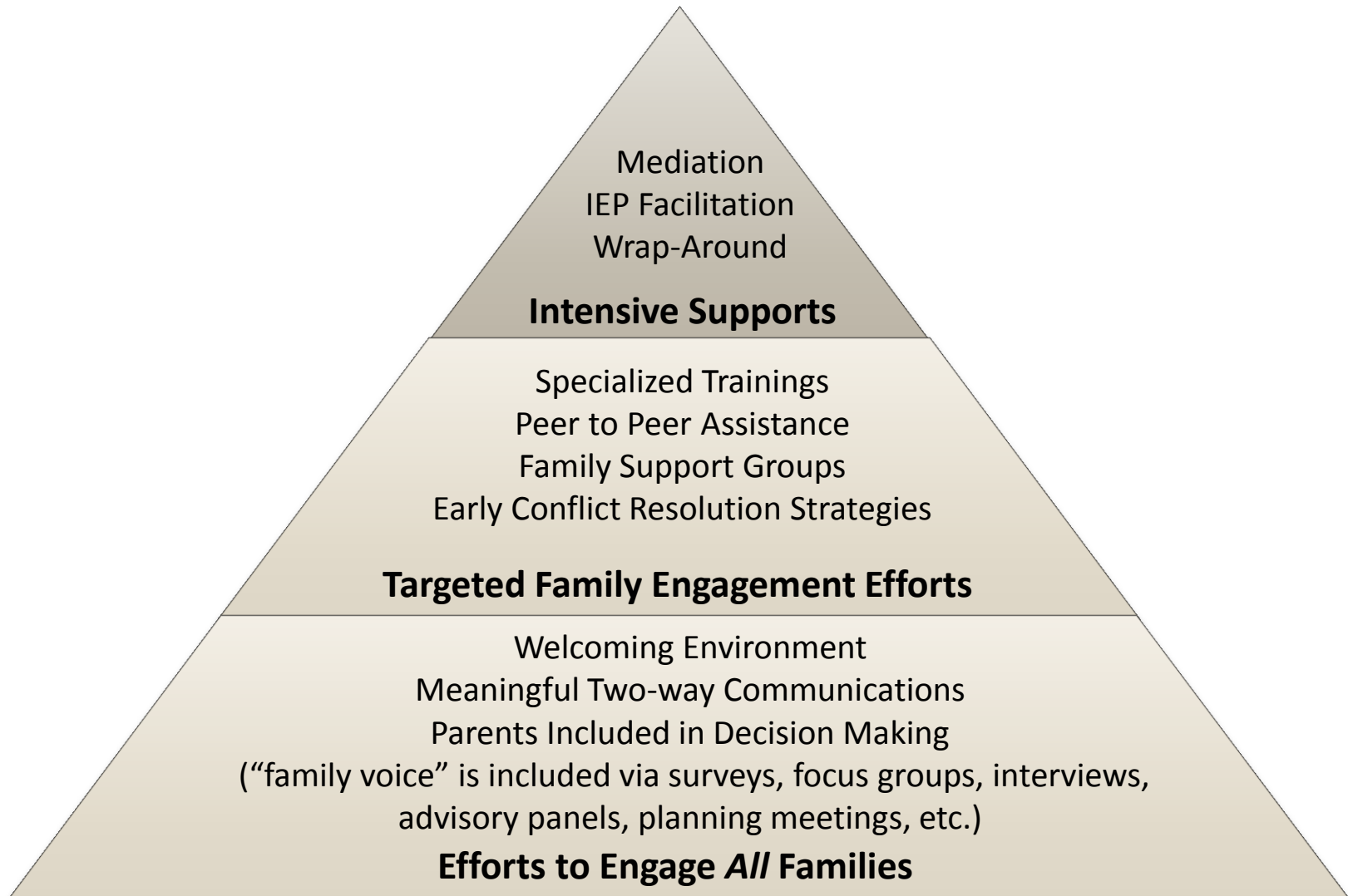
Keeping the End in Mind from the Beginning

Goal 1: Efforts are effective.

Goal 2: Effective efforts are implemented with fidelity across the board.

Goal 3: Effective efforts can be sustained.

Responsive to Needs



Establishing Relational Trust

How do you show families that you care?



How aware are you of military families' needs in your community?

- A. Extremely aware! In fact, you can call me Captain America!
- B. Somewhat aware and knowledgeable.
- C. Unaware but interested in learning.
- D. Completely unaware and I do not work with military connected families.



The Numbers

- 42,289 is the estimated number of Active Duty Families with children who have special needs
- 73% of children with special needs are between the ages of 4 and 17
- 64% of children with special needs are male

Over half (54%) of the children designated as a child with special health care concerns had these needs due to a physical condition(s), 48% due to a behavioral or emotional condition(s), and 46% because of a developmental delay. 38% have more than one of these conditions.

Intensity of Concerns

Challenges

- Stress of Deployments
 - Long
 - Quick
 - Unknown Destination
- Self-Reliance (“Warrior Ethos”)
- Stigma
- Limited Resources
 - Lack of Family
 - Sense of Isolation
- Language and Cultural Barriers

2014 Military Family Lifestyle Survey says families main concerns (for their EFM's) are:

PCS

Vocational Services

Early Intervention

SSI/SSDI

Access to Respite
Care

Accessing
community or State
based supports

Strategies

- Include family members in:
 - Leadership
 - Planning
 - Implementation
- Opportunities to connect with other military spouses
- Provide safe environments for families and students to express their fears

Provide child care at any engagement event!

Identify

Military families of children with special needs are an underserved population with a need for information and resources tailored to their children's needs and the particularities of being military families.

Discover

Many Strategies just need a little tweaking to address the challenges of military life (i.e. Invitations to assist in planning events may need to occur over the phone or via Skype). Other strategies may need to be unique to the military community (i.e. Required family attendance for screening to go overseas can impact on testing dates or other school functions).

Partner

There are resources available to assist in reaching into the military communities. These might include the SLO, EFMP, FRG, Key Spouse, Chief's Mast, or even CYSS.

**Your
Take-
Away**

Why do we engage military families?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hU6gR4zHnM>



Considerations for Native American Involvement:

Principle of self-reliance – Native Americans generally are hesitant to ask for or to receive help.



Considerations for Native American Involvement:

Principle of non-interference – Most Native Americans groups consider interference in other's lives as a sign of disrespect. They generally practice the "live and let live" philosophy. They expect the same to be afforded to them.

Principle of non-confrontation – Many Native Americans prefer not to confront people when they disagree with them.

Considerations for Native American Involvement:

Principle of diversity – Native Americans understand and respect diversity.



Considerations for Native American Involvement:

Principle of elders – Native Americans traditionally revere elders in their society.



Native American Outreach Strategies

- Utilize Tribal members in communities, who will assist with your outreach plan.
- Identify key stakeholder in the community to serve as a liaison between you and Native American parents.
- Recruit Native Americans to serve on advisory committees.

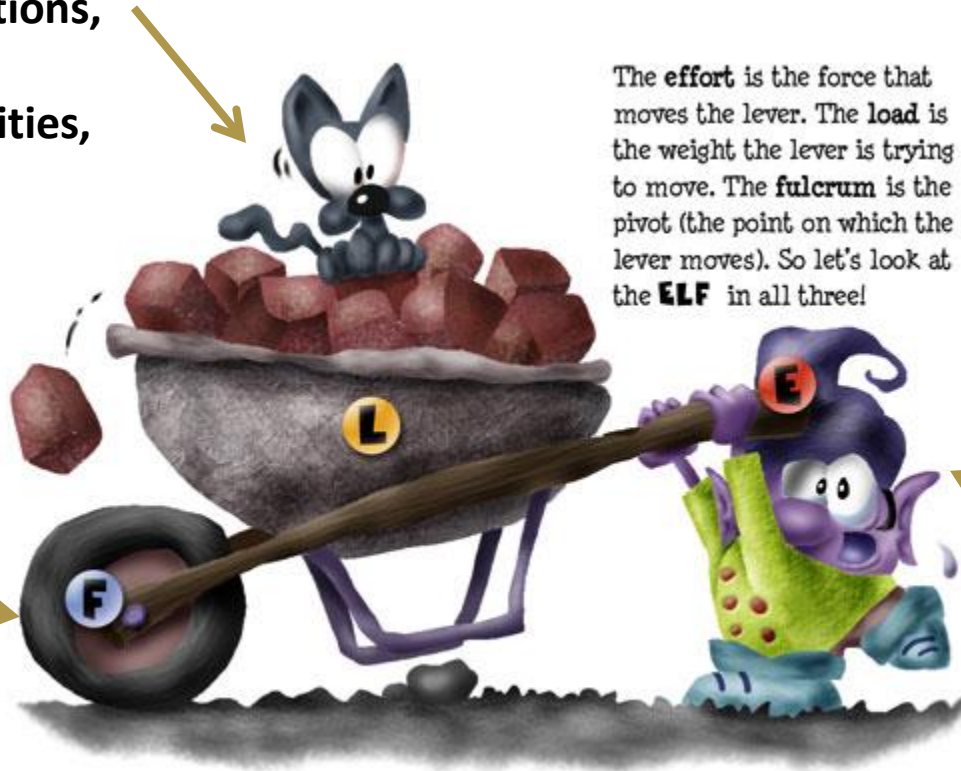
Native American Outreach Strategies

- Incorporate images of Native Americans into training materials, marketing materials, and other publication developed.
- Attend and participate in Native American specific meeting and events.
- Incorporate cultural competency training into staff orientation.

Working Strategically to Improve Outcomes

Load (Changing Adult Behaviors and Perceptions, Multiple Responsibilities, etc.)

Fulcrum/Pivot Point (Strategies that are Systemic, Integrated & Responsive)



The **effort** is the force that moves the lever. The **load** is the weight the lever is trying to move. The **fulcrum** is the pivot (the point on which the lever moves). So let's look at the **ELF** in all three!

Effort (Time, Energy, Resources)

Systemic

- **Vision & Commitment-** family engagement is seen as a core component of educational goals at every level
- **Leadership Support-**
 - Leadership is shared
 - Leaders act as change agents
 - Positive interactions are modeled
 - Sufficient resources are allocated
 - Staff have time to work towards improving home-school partnerships

Systemic

- **Data Systems** assess needs of students and families; data are used to plan activities, monitor efforts & evaluate effectiveness
- **Dual Capacity Building-** both educators and parents are trained and supported to work with each other
- **Partnerships** with community organizations and parent leaders are leveraged to support family engagement

Examples of Systemic Strategies at the Local Level

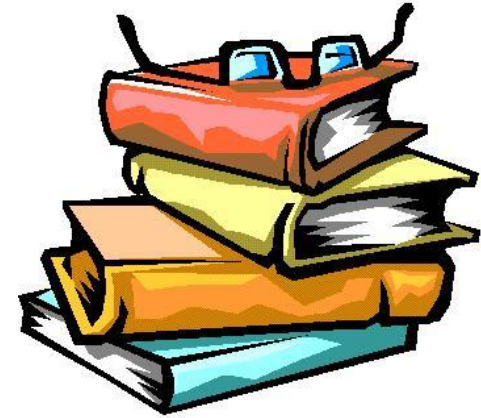
- District employs a full-time Parent Specialist.
- Leadership actively supports staff's professional development as it relates to family engagement and allocates time for staff to regularly connect with families.
- District partners with community organization to assist families with the facilitation of a parent support group.



Examples of Systemic Strategies at the State Level

State	Strategy
Illinois	SEA senior staff facilitated cross-divisional collaboration in the development of an agency-wide family engagement (FE) vision and framework. Principles and language from the FE framework are currently being integrated into various special education related trainings and technical assistance programs for educators and parents.
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has allocated resources for Special Education staff to manage several initiatives that support home-school partnerships. They have also leveraged their partnerships with other organizations, such as WI-FACETS, their federally funded Parent Training Information Center (PTI), to expand their capacity.

Integrated



- Link to learning and healthy development
- Connect to all areas of education
 - Leadership
 - Professional Development
 - Curriculum & Instruction
 - Assessment
 - Climate & Culture
- Integrate with established infrastructure, systems, and processes

Examples of Integration Strategies at the Local Level

- Parent representatives are actively engaged in district/school improvement team meetings.
- Annual Parent Forum takes place to obtain parental perspective and input related to Special Education services and parent involvement.
- Parent Portal that provides regular information on homework assignments and updates on student's progress is accessible.

Example of Integration at the State Level



State	Strategy
New Hampshire	Family engagement efforts are included in a variety of state-level plans and work. Family engagement efforts are included in SSIP, SPDG, and CEEDAR work and the SEA has included stakeholders in their rule-making process.

Sustainable

- Leverage Partnerships
- Integrate with Other Established Systems
- Share Leadership
- Evaluate, Monitor, and Continuously Improve
- Share Results
- Acknowledge Contributions
- Celebrate Successes
- Take Advantage of Opportunities

Leveraging our Strengths to Improve Outcomes



By simply capitalizing on core strengths and knowledge, companies and entrepreneurs can engage in an emerging business model that will enable them to create and demonstrate real, sustainable social impact in society.

- Muhammad Yunus

Values in a Strengths-Based Society



venessa miemis
emergentbydesign.com

Family Engagement Reminders

- Family engagement is an ongoing process.
- Family engagement happens along a continuum.
- Family engagement efforts should be responsive to the unique school-community environment.
- Family voice should be included in the planning process.

Next Steps

Reflection:

- As you think about systemic elements that support family engagement in your state, region, or community, what is going well?
- What are the strengths in your state, region or community?
- Can you leverage them or other opportunities to improve/expand efforts?

Who will you talk to about the information shared in this presentation?

Resource: Systemic, Integrated, Responsive and Sustainable Family Engagement Approaches: Getting Started

Resources

USDE Dual Capacity Model- <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/family-community/partners-education.pdf>

California Family Engagement (FE) Framework-
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr14/yr14rel107.asp>

Illinois State Board of Education FE Framework-
<http://www.isbe.net/family-engagement/html/framework.htm>

Harvard Family Research Project-
<http://www.hfrp.org/>

Center for Parent Information and Resources-
<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/>

Resources

NAPTAC- <http://naptac.org/>

The Branch- <https://branchta.org/>

Military One Source- www.militaryonesource.mil

MCEC- www.militarychild.org

CADRE- <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/>

SEDL's Working Systemically in Action: Engaging Family & Community-
<http://www.sedl.org/ws/ws-fam-comm.pdf>

Questions



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