



We'll get started at

9:33 PT / 10:33 MT

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Cohort 4, Session 3

December 2, 2025

DROP IN THE CHAT

1 small family engagement
moment you're grateful for

Family Engagement Leadership Institute

Year-at-a-Glance

Fall 2025

Learning What Works and Aligning Family
Engagement Strategies to School/District
Goals

Sept – Oct – Nov

Sept. 24

Whole Cohort
Virtual Session #1

Oct. 29

Whole Cohort
Virtual Session #2

Dec. 2

Whole Cohort
Virtual Session #3

*Action Teams
invited to attend*

Feb. 19

Whole Cohort
Virtual Session #4

Spring 2026

Re-Designing Systems to Promote What
Works

Mar – Apr – May

Apr. 22

Whole Cohort
Virtual Session #5

*Action teams
invited to attend*

1:1 & Peer
Coaching

1:1 & Peer
Coaching

1:1 & Peer
Coaching

1:1 & Peer
Coaching

1:1 & Peer
Coaching

Share Goals &
Strategies for
This Year

Share Goals &
Strategies for
Next Year

Agenda

- ✓ **Applying What Works**
 - Panel of our coaches + Q/A
 - Independent work time
 - District pod time
- ✓ **Bringing in the closest voices**
- ✓ **Closing**

Framing

Family engagement should not be a goal, but a strategy for achieving existing goals.

Examples of Goals to Anchor On

GOALS

- ✓ Decrease chronic absenteeism
- ✓ Improve ELA proficiency
- ✓ Strengthen school culture

NOT GOALS

- ✗ More parent volunteers
- ✗ Coffee with the principal
- ✗ Attendance at an event

Some of your goals from Session 2 Waterfall

- ★ Chronic absence & attendance
- ★ DIBELS and Lectura scores
- ★ “Moving our long-term English learners up a level”
- ★ Improving College/Career Indicator (CCI) data

Leadership Moves – Pillar 1: Trust

Support for teachers/staff:

- Listen deeply to families
- Meet families where they are (literally)
- Focus on assets
- Be honest and transparent
- Model co-design

Support for schoolwide efforts:

- Model learning and reflection
- Reflect on “relational trust”
- Examine bias
- Share power

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN DESIGNING SAFE TO FAIL EXPERIMENTS

1. **EXPERIMENT FREELY AND EXPECT FAILURE. FAILURE IS GOOD AND PROMOTES LEARNING.**
2. **Consider as many ideas as possible** for experimentation: any idea that has a remote possibility of creating improvement that be carried out within the next twelve weeks.
3. **Start with experiments where failure can be tolerated.** That is, choose experiments where the overall impact of failure on the system is likely to be small and/or manageable.
4. **Be comfortable with 'safe uncertainty'** – just enough structure, just enough control, just enough planning to mitigate the biggest of risks whilst leaving enough fluidity, spontaneity and freedom to **welcome new possibilities.**
5. **Design experiments that can be monitored.** To plan future experiments, you need be able to determine whether the outcome of an experiment was favorable.
6. **Run multiple experiments** in parallel. In safe-fail mode, this is not only permissible, but also encouraged where experiments can be isolated and results independently evaluated. Over time, experiments producing undesirable results should be wound up and new experiments started in promising areas.
7. **Share the results of your experiments** with others, and learn from the results of their experiments, including about yourself. This is just a logical extension of the idea to run experiments in parallel. You must be cautious, however, because the differences between your context and theirs may be difficult to isolate. Therefore, do not assume that someone else's results can be replicated within your system.

Independent Writing Time

Here solo? Write ideas in your deck.



Here with one other? Call each other & write ideas in your deck.

Here with a team? Write ideas on your own for now.

District leader? Consider what has resonated and how you can support experiments at schools.

Breakout Time

- ☆ Share your safe-to-fail experiments
 - ☆ Collect ideas from colleagues
 - ☆ Refine your experiments in real time
 - ☆ Prepare to share whole-group
-
- ☆ *Action Teams will meet to share their ideas and decide which they want to try.*
 - ☆ *District staff will share how they can support.*

What is an Action Team?

- ★ A group of families & staff who can:
 - Help you define 1-2 goal(s) for the school/district
 - Help you design and/or implement “safe-to-fail experiments” that help achieve the key goal(s)
- ★ They can either have:
 - A formal structure (like a new or existing committee)
 - An informal structure (like casual conversations with a consistent group)



Contact

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