

# Framework for Family Engagement Commitment Domain



When family engagement is a core value, the policies of the organization reflect that value. Decision-making groups that are working to improve or create policies, programs and services should always include the families being served.

## **Develop a family engagement policy.**

A family engagement policy sets the expectation for engaging families as partners in all systems-level policy-making groups to ensure that policies are family-centered and equitable.

Families should be paid for their participation, time and expertise. This helps in recruiting a diverse team and reduces barriers families might experience.

## **Find and support your champions.**

Designate one or more members of your staff who want to lead the family engagement efforts.

Support the staff members in learning more about the value of equitable family engagement and partnerships with families.

## **Take the next steps.**

Learn more about engaging families in systems-level initiatives by downloading and using the Family Engagement in Systems Assessment Tools from [familyvoices.org/FESAT](http://familyvoices.org/FESAT).

The tools provide a collection of strategies, resources and tools to help your organization improve the way you engage families in systems-level changes.

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## Strategy 1.1

Create a written policy that requires family engagement in systems-level initiatives.

### Examples of Family Engagement Policies

1

Supporting Patient and Family Engagement: Best Practices for Hospital Leaders is an evidence-based guide developed by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The guide was created for hospitals, but the strategies, like including family engagement in the hospital's mission and vision statements and strategic plan, can be used by any child- and family-serving organization as they design a written policy for engaging families in systems-level initiatives.

2

Policy Statement on Family Engagement from the Early Years to the Early Grades is from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education.

3

Developing a Written Parent and Family Engagement Policy: A Guide for Districts and Schools is a 2018 document from the Tennessee Department of Education that includes tools and resources for writing family engagement policies for engaging families at the advisory/district level, beyond the education of their individual child.