## WELCOME!

This event will start shortly. In the meantime, visit us at OhioFamiliesEngage.osu.edu



## Professional Learning

## Families and Schools: Building Hope and Belonging Together By Design

Brett Zyromski, Ph.D.

Brett Zyromski, Ph.D. Associate Professor, The Ohio State University

## INTRODUCTIONS: Who is in the room?



#### A LITTLE ABOUT ME:

- Co-Founder, Co-Chair, <u>Evidence-Based School Counseling Conference</u>
- Research Fellow: The Center for School Counseling Outcome Research & Evaluation
- Faculty Affiliate: The Center on Education and Training for Employment (CETE)
- Project Manager or Co-PI: Over \$12 million dollars of Federal or State grants
- Published 40+ peer-reviewed articles, 2 books, and 150+ presentations and workshops
- Former Counselor in Schools (Urban, Rural)



## **Hope and Belonging**

Students that have high levels of Hope and Belonging are successful at school and in life.

- Participants will learn about the science of Hope and the ways that Belonging is a superpower for students.
- Participants will leave the session with practical insights into how we can all intentionally
  design effective strategies within schools, communities, and/or with our families to help build
  Hope and Belonging for our students and adults.

## **Interactive Activity #1**

Using the Chat function, after you hear the definition of belonging from Dr. Z., please type your thoughts around the following prompts:

- Where do you feel like you belong?
  - Perhaps at holidays with family?
  - At your home with your pets?
  - During spiritual or religious activities in those organizations?
  - When you involve yourself with fraternity or sorority members on service activities?
  - With select friends? Or a community organization?



## Let's Talk! MENTIMETER ACTIVITY

1. What does it feel like to Belong?

2. What are characteristics of places in which we feel like we belong?









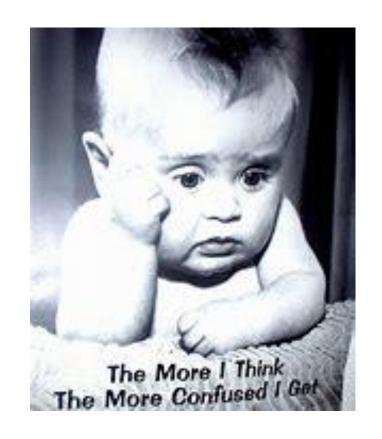
## Let's Talk! MENTIMETER ACTIVITY

- 1. What does it mean to have Hope?
- 2. What does it look like to lack Hope?
- 3. What does a hopeful person look like and

sound like?









# 1

## Students are Struggling

Not all students feel like they belong or have hope . . .





## **Department of Ed Impact Summary**

• Education in a Pandemic: The Disparate Impacts of COVID-19 on America's Students (US Dept. of Ed. Office for Civil Rights)

Observation 1: Academic growth has been impacted and existing disparities widened

**Observation 2**: Disparities in access and opportunity have widened

**Observation 3**: ELL Student struggles have been exacerbated

**Observation 4**: Disability-based disparities have widened

Observation 5: LGBTQ+ populations face heightened abuse, isolation, anxiety, and stress Observation 6: All students have faced mental health and well-being challenges

**Observation 7**: Sexual abuse and violence towards women increased (especially transgender, non-binary, or gender non-conforming)

**Observation 8**: Asian American and Pacific Islander harassment and violence have increased

**Observation 9**: New barriers to postsecondary for marginalized populations have emerged

**Observation 10**: Institutes of higher education serving BIPOC and low-income students have experienced lower enrollment

**Observation 11**: Students with disabilities enrolled in higher education courses face new and enhanced hardships and barriers to success.



\*Articles linked to author citations for your use.



**Profound Mental Health Impact** 

<u>US Surgeon General published an Advisory Report</u> (2021), titled, "Protecting Youth Mental Health."

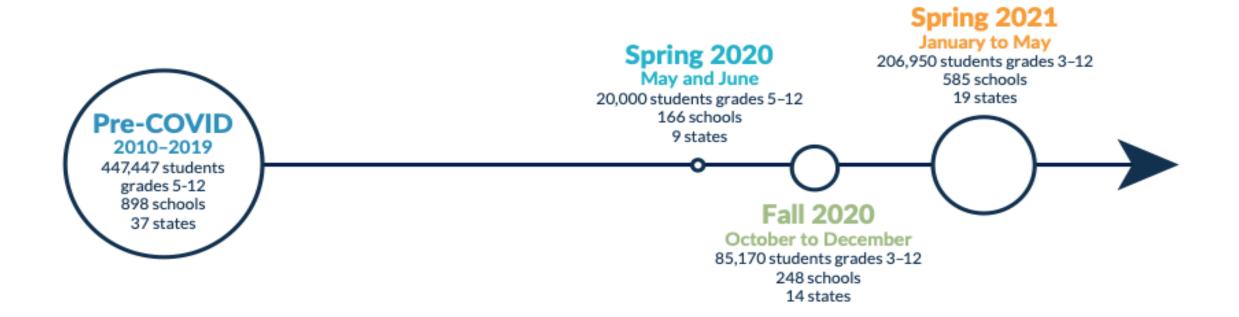
Suggests youth mental health in the pandemic is at risk of being a public health crisis:

- <u>CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey</u> results suggests that In 2019, 1 in 3 high school students and half of female students reported feeling sad or hopeless, an increase of 40% from 2009.
- A research study with 80,000 youth across the world found that symptoms of anxiety and depression doubled during the pandemic, with 1 in 5 experiencing anxiety and 1 in 4 experiencing depression.
- Yard et al., (2021) report that emergency room visits in early 2021 for suspected suicide attempts were up 51% for adolescent girls and 4% for adolescent boys compared to 2019.



## Barriers to Learning: YouthTruth Student Survey





Source: <a href="https://youthtruthsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/YouthTruth-Students-Weigh-In-Part-III-Learning-and-Well-Being-During-COVID-19.pdf">https://youthtruthsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/YouthTruth-Students-Weigh-In-Part-III-Learning-and-Well-Being-During-COVID-19.pdf</a>

### **Findings**



#### Social, Emotional & Academic Development





While students' perceptions of learning returned to pre-pandemic levels this spring, there is cause for concern about students' social and emotional well-being. Students offer insights on how technology can help or hinder learning.

#### TWO Obstacles to Learning



The overall number of obstacles to learning for students is down. However, inequitable experiences and compounding barriers persist, especially for Black and Latinx learners.

#### THREE

#### Respect & Teacher Support



Students felt more respect from adults during the pandemic as well as increased academic support from teachers. However, respect and teacher support are experienced unevenly across student groups.

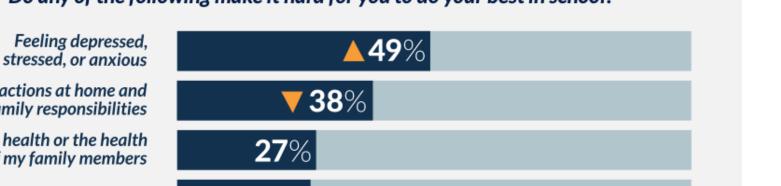
#### **FOUR**

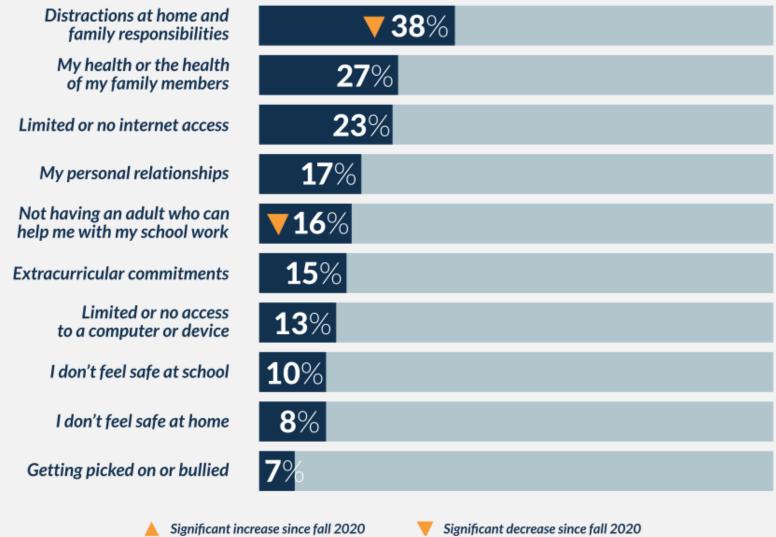
#### **Plans for the Future**

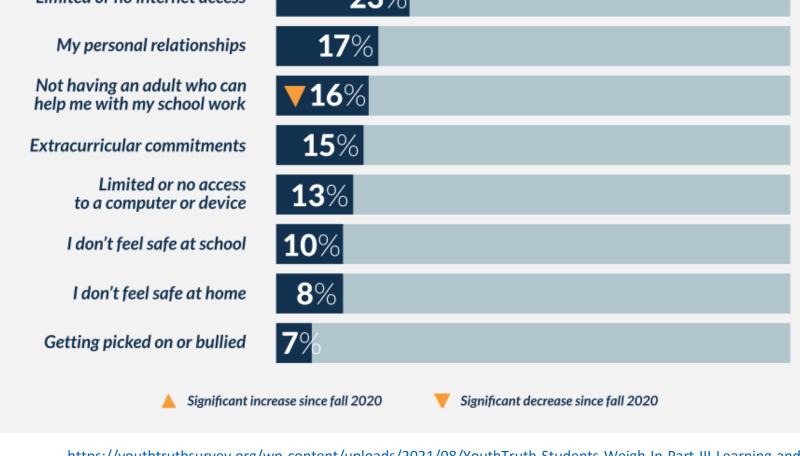


Fewer students plan to go to college. Students offer ideas for making access to higher education more equitable.

#### Do any of the following make it hard for you to do your best in school?







## 3 Realms of ACEs

Adverse childhood and community experiences (ACEs) can occur in the household, the community, or in the environment and cause toxic stress. Left unaddressed, toxic stress from ACEs harms children and families, organizations, systems and communities, and reduces the ability of individuals and entities to respond to stressful events with resiliency. Research has shown that there are many ways to reduce and heal from toxic stress and build healthy, caring communities.





Thanks to **Building Community Resilience Collaborative and Networks** and the **International Transformational Resilience Coalition** for inspiration and guidance. Please visit **ACEsConnection.com** to learn more about the science of ACEs and join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma and build resilience.



### Adverse Childhood **Experiences**

Traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being.



- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse

#### Household Challenges

- · Domestic violence
- Substance abuse
- Mental illness
- · Parental separation/divorce
- Incarcerated parent

People with 6+ ACEs can die

**20 yrs** 

earlier than those who have none.



Neglect

Physical neglect

1/8 of the population have more than 4 ACEs

#### 4 or more ACEs







the number of suicide

11x the level of intravenous drug abuse



as likely to have begun intercourse by age 15

4.5x more likely to develop depression

attempts



2x the level of liver disease



Adverse childhood experiences are the single greatest unaddressed public health threat facing our nation today.

Dr. Robert Block, the former President of the American Academy of Pediatrics

of the population have at least 1 ACE

Early Death

Disease, Disability, Social Problems

Health-risk Behaviors

Social, Emotional, Cognitive Impairment

Disrupted Neurodevelopment

Adverse Childhood Experiences



For more info or to schedule a class, contact:

Julie Gramlich, Founder annemarieproject.org@gmail.com 573-644-4965 · annmarieproject.org



#### How the ACES Work

#### Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Abuse and Neglect (e.g., psychological, physical, sexual)
- Household Dysfunction (e.g., domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness)



#### Impact on Child Development

- Neurobiologic Effects (e.g., brain abnormalities, stress hormone dysregulation)
- Psychosocial Effects (e.g., poor attachment, poor socialization, poor self-efficacy)
- •Health Risk Behaviors (e.g., smoking, obesity, substance abuse, promiscuity)



#### Long-Term Consequences

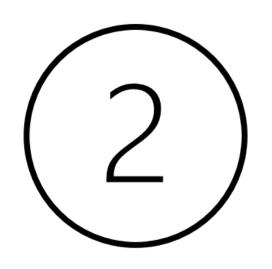
#### Disease and Disability

- Major Depression, Suicide, PTSD
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- ·Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Chronic Lung Disease
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- •Intergenerational transmission of abuse

#### Social Problems

- Homelessness
- Prostitution
- Criminal Behavior
- Unemployment
- Parenting problems
- High utilization of health and social services
- Shortened Lifespan

CANarratives.org



## Buffering ACEs and Trauma with Hope and Belonging





## Positive Childhood Experiences & Protective Factors: What's the Difference?



## Positive Childhood Experiences



Research through the lens of examining how various constructs *load directly* into outcomes that buffer the negative effects of ACEs

## Protective Factors



Research through the lens of examining how various constructs load directly into buffering the negative effects of trauma in general - sometimes overlaps with ACEs



## Positive Childhood Experiences

- 1. Felt able to talk to family about feelings
- 2. Felt family stood by them during difficult times
- 3. Enjoying participating in community traditions
- 4. Felt a sense of belonging in high school
- 5. Felt supported by friends
- 6. Had at least 2 non-parent adults who took genuine interest in them
- 7. Felt safe and protected by an adult in their home.





## **Protective Factors**

- Positive adult relationship
- Emotional stability
- Empathy
- Peer intimacy
- Positive student-teacher relationship
- Positive student-peer relationships
- Prosocial friends
- Psychological resilience

- Resilience coping
- School belonging
- School engagement
- School safety
- Self-efficacy
- Social emotional support
- Support from class
- Support from peers





## **Protective Factors - Research (1)**

Positive, supportive relationships with one or more adults = School Success

(Forster et al., 2017)

School Engagement and Belonging, and Feeling Safe = Better Health

(Davis et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2020; Moore & Ramirez, 2016)

Feeling Supported By Others buffers depression

(Brinker & Cheruvu, 2017; Cheong et al., 2017)





## **Protective Factors - Research (2)**

Emotional Stability and Self-Efficacy buffers mental health issues

(Cohrdes & Mauz, 2020)

Social Support or Empathy buffers some effects of dating abuse (Davis et al., 2019)

Resilience buffers feelings of anxiety, depression, and distress

(Beutel et al., 2017)





## **Protective Factors - Research (3)**

ACEs = substance use

← protective adult relationships

Brown & Shillington, 2017

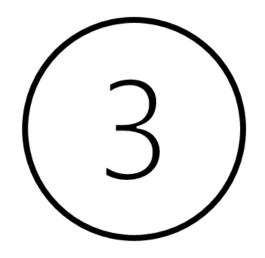


Youth with 0-5 ACEs, stronger social bonds, ↓rearrested Craig et al., 2017

Childhood sexual abuse → having a confidant → ↑mental health Fuller-Thomson et al., 2019

↑ACEs → ↑emotion dysregulation → ↑anxiety ← psychological resilience Poole et al., 2017





## **IMPACT OF HOPE**

## What is Hope?

"Hope is the belief that your future can be brighter and better than your past and that you actually have a role to play in making it better"

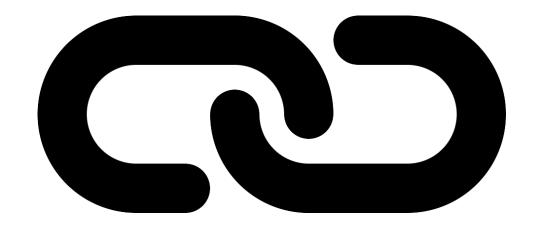
- Casey Gwinn & Chan Hellman

Authors of Hope Rising, p. 9



## What is Hope?

**AGENCY** 



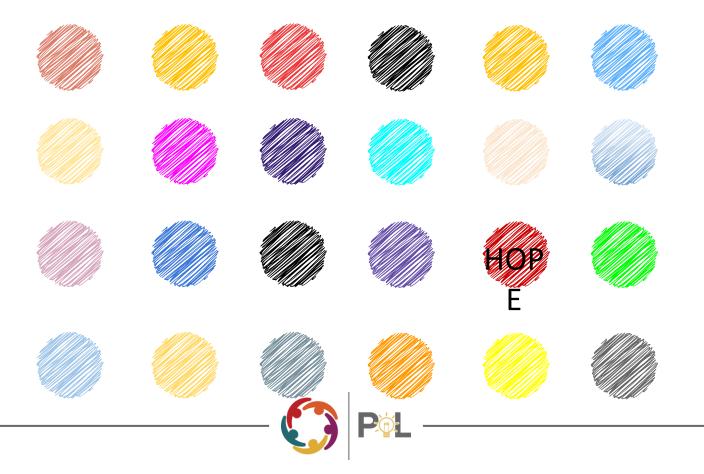
**PATHWAYS** 

Hope is the combination of willpower (agency) and waypower (pathways)



## THE IMPACT OF HOPE

The 24 characteristics of well-being study



## IMPACT OF HIGHER HOPE













#### IMPACT OF HIGHER HOPE: FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS









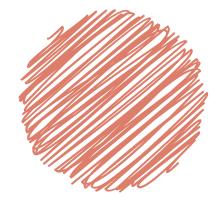
Shane Lopez's research for Gallup showed that higher hope students perform a full GPA point higher than students with the same intellectual capacity but lower levels of hope



## More Impact of Hope









2.8x more likely to report excellent grades

3.1x more likely to agree that they do well in school

4.1x more likely to be engaged in school

2.2x less likely to miss a lot of school



## A SCHOOL CULTURE OF HOPE LEADS TO BETTER STUDENT OUTCOMES







## THE HOPE CONTINUUM



<- Goal is significantly blocked



<- Pathways unavailable

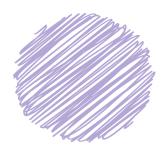


## The Simplicity of Hope

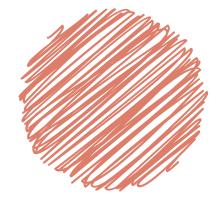


Adapted from Dr. Chan Hellman

## **BUILDING HOPE**









Be hopecentered Be
Positive &
Affirming

Ask Open
Questions
& Listen

Empathize

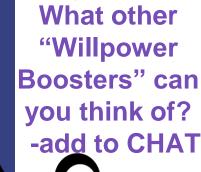
## WILLPOWER BOOSTERS













**Experiences** 



Purpose/Why



**Future Memories** 

### ARE WE MEASURING WHAT MATTERS?

### The Children's Hope Scale

SCALE	Low	Medium	High
Total Summed Score divided by 6	<3.0	30-6.47	>4.67

### The Adult Hope Scale

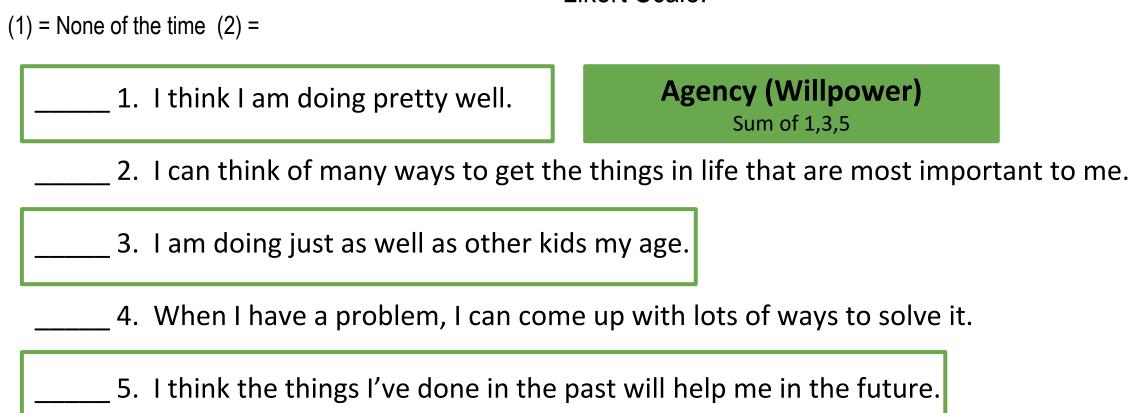
Scoring instructions included in the link



## Children's HOPE Scale for ages 8-17. Developed by Rick Snyder in 1997 Likert Scale:

(1) = None of the time (2) =	
	_ 1. I think I am doing pretty well.
	_ 2. I can think of many ways to get the things in life that are most important to me.
	_ 3. I am doing just as well as other kids my age.
	_4. When I have a problem, I can come up with lots of ways to solve it.
	_ 5. I think the things I've done in the past will help me in the future.
	_ 6. Even when others want to quit I know I can find ways to solve the problem.

## Children's HOPE Scale for ages 8-17. Developed by Rick Snyder in 1997 Likert Scale:



6. Even when others want to quit I know I can find ways to solve the problem.

## Children's HOPE Scale for ages 8-17. Developed by Rick Snyder in 1997 Likert Scale:

(1) = None of the time (2) = Pathways (Waypower) = 1. I think I am doing pretty well. Sum of 2, 4, 6 2. I can think of many ways to get the things in life that are most important to me. 3. I am doing just as well as other kids my age. 4. When I have a problem, I can come up with lots of ways to solve it. 5. I think the things I've done in the past will help me in the future.

6. Even when others want to quit I know I can find ways to solve the problem.

### Children's HOPE Scale for ages 8-17. Developed by Rick Snyder in 1997

Agency (Willpower)



Pathways (Waypower)









19-29 = Moderate HOPE

6- = Low HOPE



# The Children's HOPE Rating Scale allows us to disaggregate data to better support our students





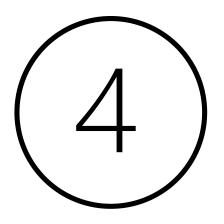


### **HOPE** Rating Scale is also a Root Cause Survey

- Are students lacking the ability to see pathways to their goals?
- Are students lacking motivation or resilience in overcoming obstacles?
- Knowing the separate scores allows us to tailor our interventions toward the areas students need the most support.

### Dr. Hellman's Evidence-based Pro Tips:

- Students with higher ACE scores or increased levels of trauma will struggle in identifying pathways
- When completing the goal setting or other work groups pair students who have low pathways scores with students of higher pathways scores.



### Belonging

## What is Belonging?

The term belonging is often used interchangeably with 'connectedness', 'community', 'engagement', or 'school bonding'. We all need to feel like we belong - it is a basic human need.

We will use the Goodenow and Grady (1993) definition as the degree to which students feel "accepted, respected, included, and supported by others in the school social environment" (p. 80).



## **Belonging in School Settings**



### When students:

 Feel a part of the school community and are happy at school.

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

- Feel that teachers care about them and treat them fairly.
- Positive relationships with other students and feel safe at school (Libbey, 2004).



### IMPACT OF HIGHER BELONGING











IMPACT OF DEPRESSION







## The Center for Disease Control

The CDC identifies school belonging is a primary force for helping students thrive in school and life

(<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/">https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/">https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/">https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/">https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/</a></a>





### School Connectedness Helps Students Thrive

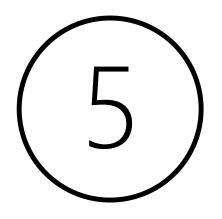
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School connectedness is when students feel that adults and peers in school care about their learning as well as about them as individuals. This includes a sense of being cared for, being supported, and belonging at school.

Schools play a critical role in promoting students' health and development and can take action to help students feel connected.

Why is Connectedness Important?	
When youth feel connected to their school, they are less likely to experience:	
Poor mental health	
Sexual health risks	
Substance use	
◆ Violence	



## Building Hope and Belonging by Leveraging School-Family Partnerships

### 5 High-Impact Strategies for School-Family Partnership

How might the science of Hope or the power of Belonging impact each of these strategies?

Think Willpower and Waypower (Hope) – and positive relationships (Belonging). . .

- 1. Help your child know they belong in the school community.
- 2. Support your child's relationship with their teachers.
- 3. Experience family and school routines and traditions together.
- 4. Support behaviors that build success and well-being.
- 5. Continue to build good relationships at home.



# Strategy #1 Help your child know they belong in the school community



### **Sense of Belonging:**

- Talk about school often at home. Ask about schoolwork, other kids in class, and their teachers. Celebrate what they're learning.
- Support their participation in extracurricular activities.
   Talk with them about what they want to try.



Willpower and Waypower

ideas?

## Strategy #2 Support your child's relationship with their teacher



Willpower and Waypower ideas?

### **Teacher-Student Relationships:**

- Ask your child which teachers or other adults at school they know or feel supported by.
- Make sure the teacher or school counselor knows if your child feels lonely or unwelcome at school.



# Strategy #3 Experience family and school routines and traditions together



### **Routines and Rituals:**

- Use household routines that promote structure, responsibility, and fun.
- Celebrate school traditions with your child.
- Encourage your child to share with their friends and teachers about cultural or family traditions that are important to your family or community.



Willpower and Waypower

ideas?

## Strategy #4 Support behaviors that build success and well-being



Willpower and Waypower ideas?

### **Problem-solving and self-regulation:**

- Talk about and model healthy sleeping habits, like setting a regular bedtime.
- Encourage activities that build focus and self-control, such as playing board games and following a daily schedule.
- Promote activities that align with your child's interests and that build problem-solving skills (Examples: sports, yoga, music, theater, etc.)



## Strategy #5 Continue to build good relationships at home



Willpower and Waypower ideas?

### **Relationships at Home:**

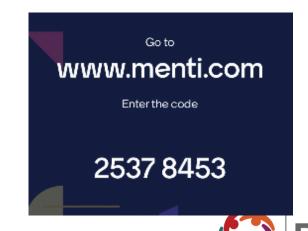
- Have fun together as a family by playing games, making food together, having a family movie night, etc.
- Have simple, daily conversations with your child about school, friends, and more.



### Let's Talk! MENTIMETER ACTIVITY

- 1. How might we use the science of Hope in our own families?
- 2. How might we build Belonging in our partnership work?
- 3. How might these interventions differ by community?







## **Current Project**

- Literature review on opportunities for partnership between schools and families to support students' mental health
- Developed research brief to summarize findings
- Developing resources for educators and families



## Partnering with Families to Support Mental Health

Research-based Strategies for Educators

Developed by the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center Patrick D. Cunningham, Brett Zyromski, Meredith Wellman, and Barbara J. Boone





## 1 Page of Tips for Families

### **Early Childhood/Elementary**

### 5 EASY WAYS TO

### Support Your Child's Mental Health

- 1 Help your child know they belong in the school community.
  - Talk about school often at home! Ask about schoolwork, other kids in class, and about their teacher. Celebrate what they are learning.
  - Support your child's participation in extracurricular activities (like sports or afterschool programs). Talk with them about what they want to try.
- 2 Support your child's relationship with their teacher.
  - Ask your child which teachers or other adults at school they know.
  - Make sure the teacher or school counselor knows if your child feels lonely or unwelcome at school.
- 3 Experience family and school routines and traditions together.
  - Use household routines that promote structure, responsibility, and fun (Example: Singing a silly song while you take out the trash together).
  - Celebrate school traditions with your child (Example: Attending school concerts).
- 4 Support behaviors that build success and well-being.
  - · Talk about healthy sleeping habits, like setting a regular bedtime.
  - Encourage activities that build focus and self-control, such as playing board games and following a daily schedule.
- 5 Continue to build good relationships at home.
  - Have fun together as a family by playing games, making food together, having a family movie night, etc.
  - · Have simple, daily conversations with your child about school, friends, and more.

Can you believe all of these new things you are learning?

Who is the adult at school that is most special to you?

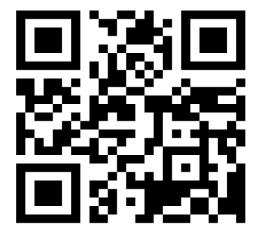
Let's make this a fun, family tradition.

Let's set ourselves up for a good day.

How are you feeling about

**English** 

- Arabic
- Dari
- Nepali
- Somali
- **Spanish** 
  - Swahili
- **Ukranian**



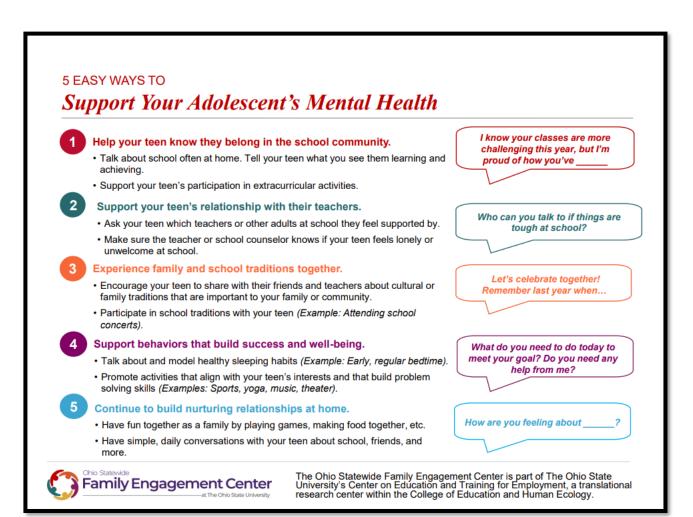


The Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center is part of The Ohio State University's Center on Education and Training for Employment, a translational research center within the College of Education and Human Ecology.



## 1 Page of Tips for Families

### Middle/High School



- English
- Arabic
- Dari
- Nepali
- Somali
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Ukranian

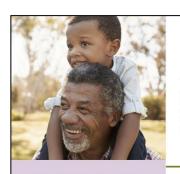


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YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Family

Engagement

Center

CENTER ON EDUCATION AND

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

185.469

children in Ohio

live with their

grandparents

### #GrandUnderstandings?

### **Our Message to GrandFamilies**

We recognize that raising your grandchildren or other relatives can require a lot of you. Be assured, you are giving them a better present and future. At the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center- we see you and we hear you. We want to support you in working together with schools and the community. Below you will find some resources about schools and family well-being- created with help from grandfamilies. When families, schools, and communities work together, children are more successful in learning and in life.

#### SCHOOLS ARE HERE TO HELP



If you haven't already, reach out to your grandchild's school with your questions. Schools can help with learning supports, behavior, mental and physical health, and your family's overall well

#### Consider reaching out to one of these staff members for more information:

- teacher
- · school counselors

- principal
- · shools nurse

### · school social worker

#### THERE ARE RESOURCES FOR YOU



Many grandfamilies and kinship families find it helpful to connect to others and the community. Joining a group of others with similar lives is a good idea. To find a group or other supports to help your family along the way, consider these Ohio resources. Click on each one or scan the QR code for more information.

#### OhioKAN



Kinship navigator program ohiokan.jfs.ohio.gov

Kinship Caregivers Connect



Online support group

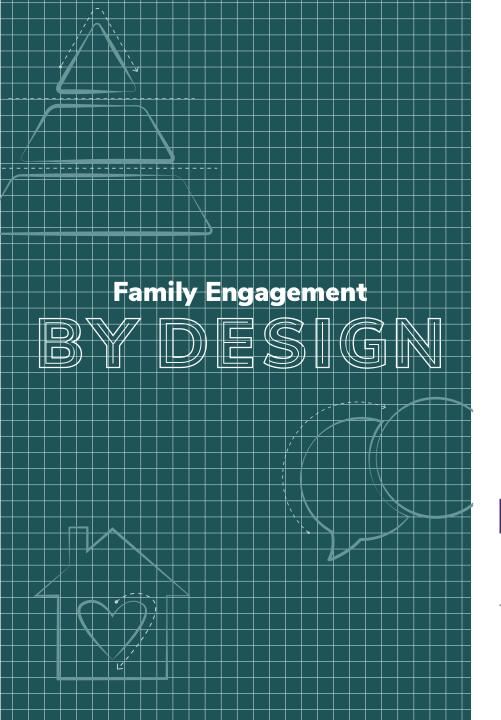
Ohio Grandparent/ Kinship Coalition



Advocacy organization



go.osu.edu/ grandresources



### THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!

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-at The Ohio State University-

**Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center** 

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