

Family Engagement Leaders of Ohio

December 3, 2024



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

CENTER ON EDUCATION AND
TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT



Ohio Statewide
Family
Engagement
Center

at The Ohio State University



Welcome!

Hello!

Please add your name, Role, and Organization to the Chat Box.



About us

Wesley Owens

Family Engagement Research
Associate



Dr. Barbara Boone

Director, Ohio Statewide Family
Engagement Center



Hind Haddad

Graduate Research
Associate



FELOs at a Glance



Family Engagement Leaders of Ohio (FELOs) is a virtual professional learning community for family engagement professionals in Ohio's districts and community schools. FELOs brings professionals together to share experiences and to learn how we can build partnerships with all families in our preK – 12 education community.



Agenda

- I. FELLOs Resources
- II. Objectives
- III. Colleague Connection
- IV. Family Engagement Quarterly Topic: ?
- V. District Presentation and Discussion: **Jhuma Acharya**
- VI. OhSFEC News, exit survey, and adjourn



FELOs Resources

OSU.EDU About | Networks | Contact English

Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center at The Ohio State University

Search...

RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL LEARNING 2023 ANNUAL SUMMIT

Family Engagement Leaders of Ohio

Family Engagement Leaders of Ohio is a virtual professional learning community for family engagement professionals in Ohio's districts and community schools. There are over 200 leaders in this network. We are bringing together family engagement professionals from across the state virtually to share their experience and to learn together how we can build partnerships with all families in our pre K – 12 education community. This community was established with family engagement professionals working in Ohio's districts or community schools in mind. Four on-line meetings are planned for this school year. Click "Join the Community" below to receive email updates.

Representation From
44 Ohio Counties
14 States + Washington D.C.



[Join the Community](#)

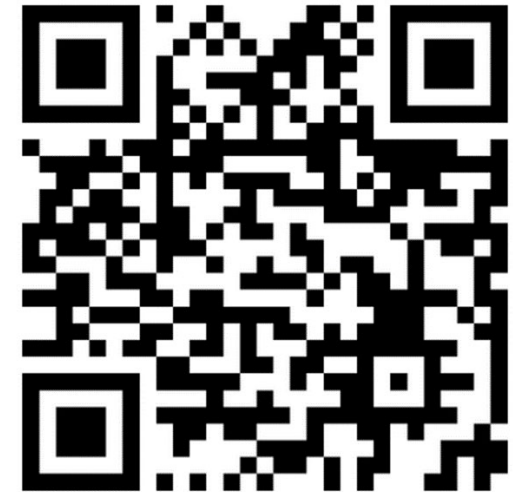
[Meeting Materials and Notes](#)



TOP HAT

Log in to access this course

Family Engagement Leaders of Ohio



Objectives

1. Build a community of inquiry for family engagement
2. Identify strengths and areas of improvement of family engagement practices



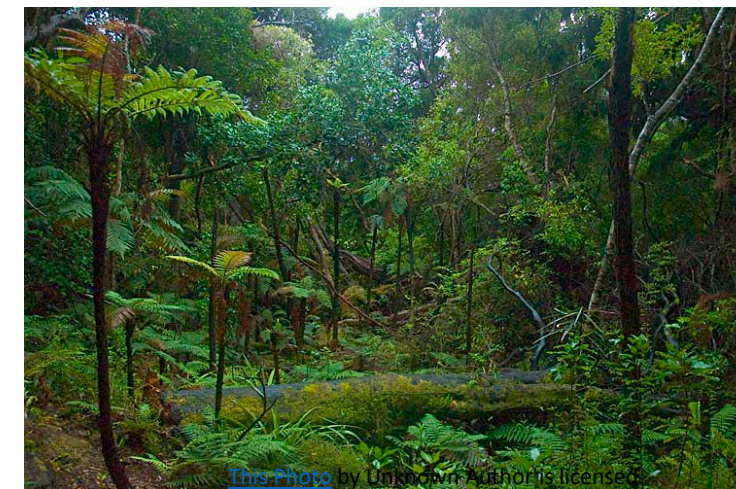
Colleague Connection

Where would you rather be?

AND

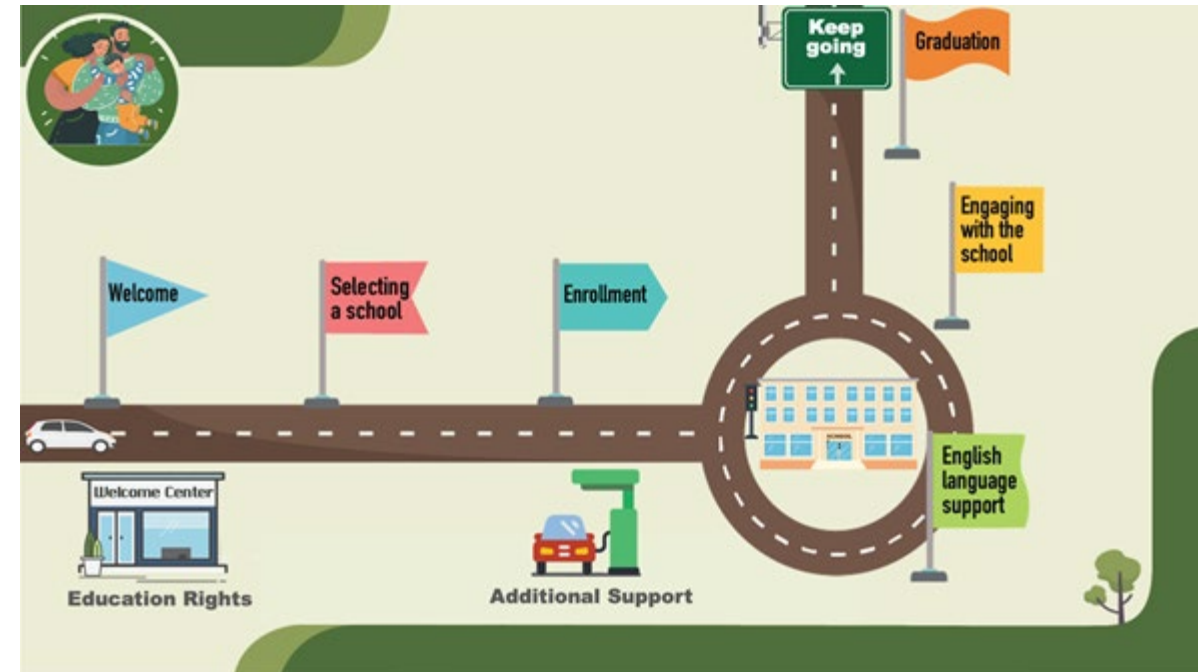
1) How is your practice going so far?

2) What resources or supports are you in need of?



Family Engagement Topic: The Family Roadmap

- Developed in Partnership with Ohio Department of Education and Workforce
- Resources to help families learning English
- Currently in Arabic, English, Nepali, Dari, Spanish, Somali, Swahili, and Ukrainian with more languages to come!





Using the Family Roadmap

How can your school, organization, or program share the Family Roadmap with families?



Featured Speaker

Jhuma Acharya

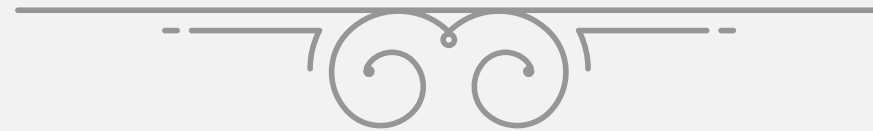
Family Engagement and DEI

Licking Heights Local Schools





School-Family Engagement



*Presenter: Jhuma N Acharya, M.Sc., MSW
School Family Engagement Specialist
Licking Heights Local Schools*



Licking Heights
LOCAL SCHOOLS

Located East of 270, City of Pataskala, Licking
County, 35 square miles of radius

Established in 1957, later unified with
Jersey township and became Licking
Heights Local School District



Mission Statement
Elevating Every Learner
to
New Heights





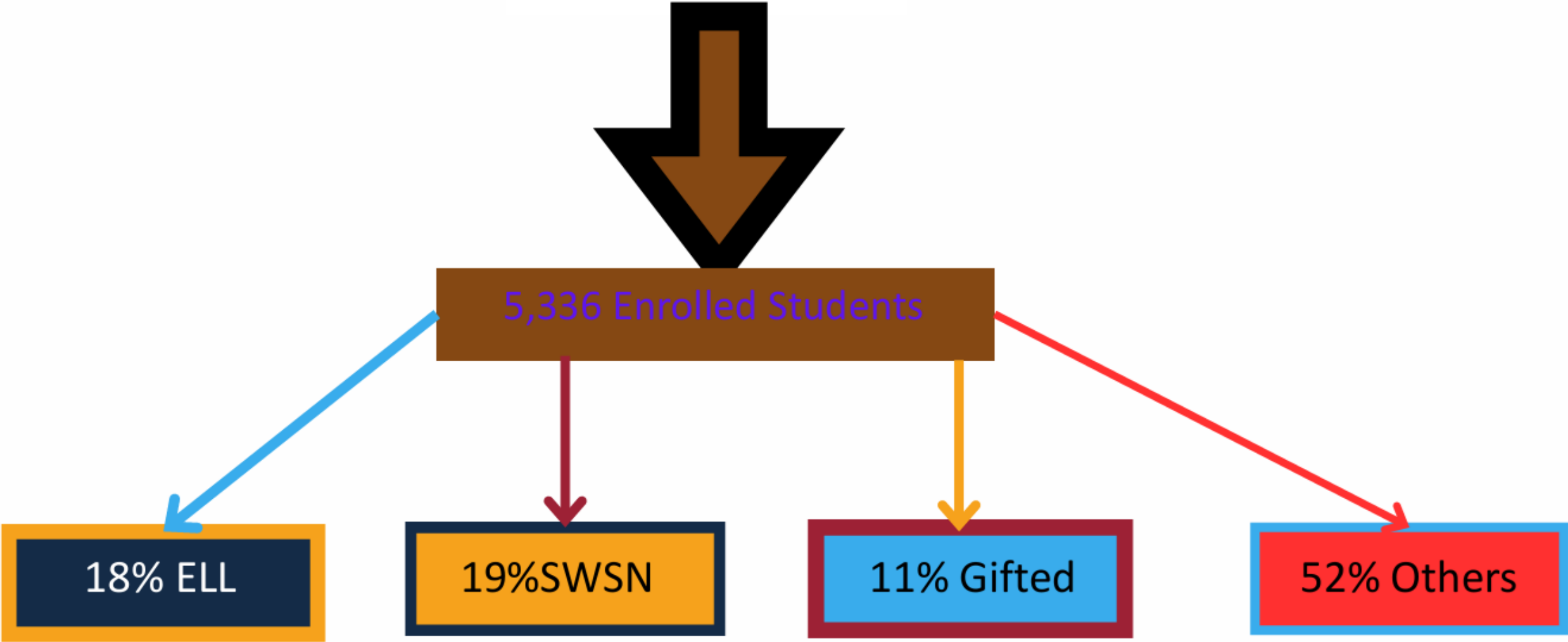
5,336 Enrolled Students

18% ELL

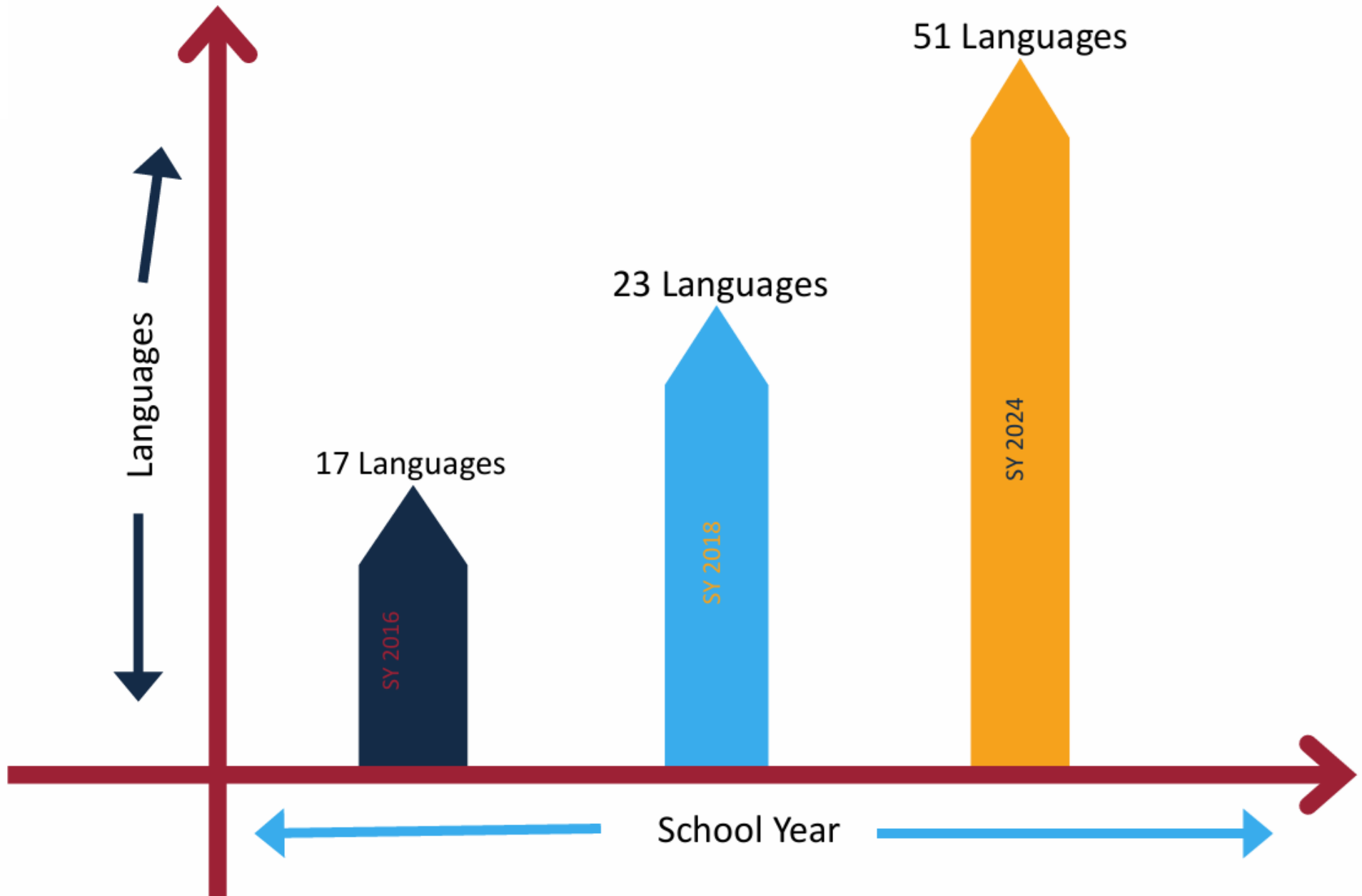
19% SWSN

11% Gifted

52% Others



Linguistic Shift





Our Engagement Journey

Step 1: Conducted a Needs Assessment

- ❖ *Survey families to understand their communication preferences and barriers.*
- ❖ *Assess the cultural and linguistic diversity within the district.*

Step 2: Build Trust and relationship with Families and communities

- ❖ *Use interpreters and translated materials to ensure clarity in communication.*
- ❖ *Host informal meet-and-greet events with teachers and staff and Families*

Step 3: Established Two-Way Communication

- ❖ *Use multiple platforms (emails, apps, in-person meetings) to connect with families.*
- ❖ *Talking Points ILA*



Our Engagement Journey

Step 4: Strong Leadership Support

Community Engagement is one of the pillars of the school's success

Built FE as a core component of the school's Mission and Vision

District Leadership has prioritized FE

Step 5: Part of the NNPS network:

Receive technical support and training from National. Statelevel and regional support team on enhancing FE in the district.

Regard Families as Partners , Assets , and Experts, not just mere visitors



Overview of FE in the District

Building Partnerships with families and Community Orgs

Focus on Improving Communication and trust with Families

Multi-step family Engagement Process from Community spaces to school building

FE as a Core Value on Pillars of School Success

Our Approaches at LH



Community Walks

Community meetings

Multilingual Outreach

Parent-Led Groups

Parent Advisory Group

**Parents and Families in
Leadership Role**

**Superintendent
Listening Sessions**

Staff Training

NNPS Model

Testimonies of Some common Practices at LHSchools

Community Walks

Seeing our principal and teachers in our neighborhood, listening to our stories, and genuinely caring about our kids made us feel valued. It showed we're not just families—they see us as partners in education

Parent-Led Groups

Being part of the Parent-Led Groups has been empowering. Sharing our culture, leading events, and collaborating with the school has made me feel like an active contributor. It's rewarding to see how our voices shape decisions and build a stronger school community.

Multilingual Outreach

My experience with multilingual outreach has been incredibly fulfilling. Connecting with families in their preferred languages broke barriers and built trust, ensuring every family felt supported and included.



Testimonies of FE Initiatives at LHSchools

Parents and Families in Leadership Role

Being in a leadership role at school has been an inspiring experience. As a parent, I've always wanted to contribute to my child's education, but this role allowed me to actively shape programs and policies. I feel proud, empowered and belonged.

Superintendent Listening Sessions

Sitting in the superintendent's meeting was an experience I'll never forget. For the first time, I felt truly seen and heard. When I shared my thoughts, the superintendent listened with genuine interest and even asked follow-up questions about my family's needs. It wasn't just a meeting; it was a conversation, a partnership in the making. I left feeling like my voice matters and that I'm a valued part of this school community.

Parent Advisory Group

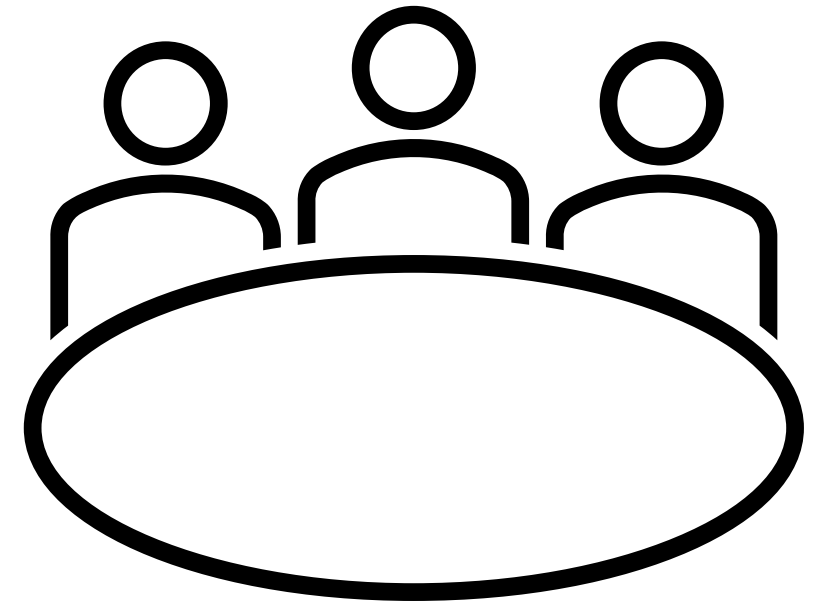
Being invited to the Parent Advisory Group made me feel like my voice truly matters. For the first time, I felt like a partner in shaping the school's future. One parent said, 'It's empowering to know our opinions are valued and can lead to real changes for our children.' This opportunity has deepened trust and built a stronger connection between families and the school."



THANK YOU

FELOs Chalk Talk

Group 1	FELOs Chalk Talk	Group 2
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What resonated with you from the presentation? (Green)2. What family engagement strategies that you heard about could you try in your work? (Yellow)3. What questions do you have for the presenter? (Pink)		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What resonated with you from the presentation? (Green)2. What family engagement strategies that you heard about could you try in your work? (Yellow)3. What questions do you have for the presenter? (Pink)
		
		
		
		
		
		
Group 3		Group 4
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Debrief

Chalk Talk Questions

- What resonated with you from the presentation? (Green)
- What family engagement strategies that you heard about could you try in your work? (Yellow)
- What questions do you have for the presenter? (Pink)

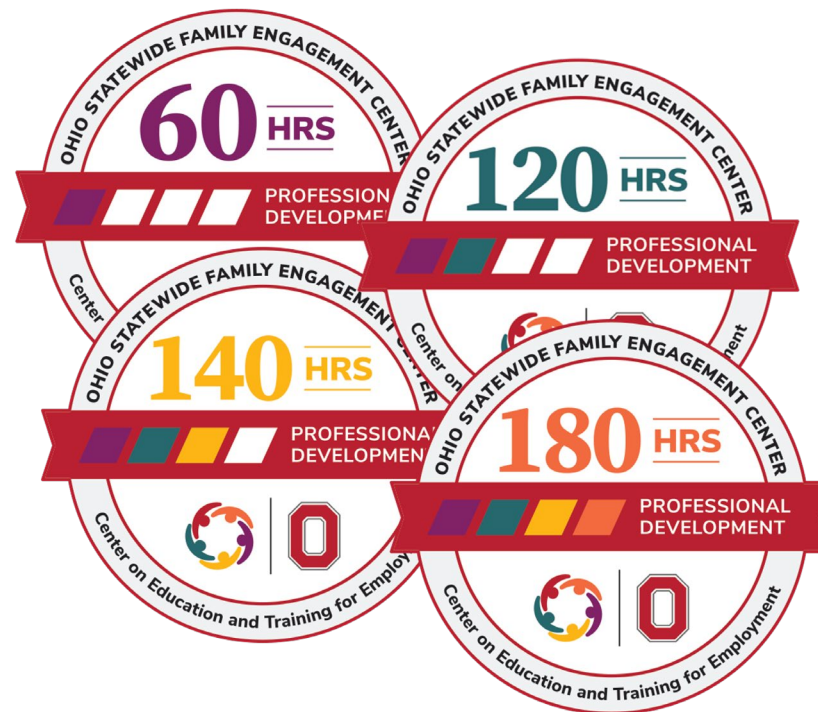
Chalk Talk

How was this a useful ways to explore ideas from a text or speech and to explore your own thinking?



OhSFEC Learning Opportunities

- Foundations of Family Engagement (February)
- **Unlocking Early Literacy (December through June)**
- Hands-On Webinar: How to Engage Multilingual Families (February)
- **Workshops: Roadmap for Families and Money Talks (by request)**



Wrapping Up!

Please take the exit survey by following the link in our chat or scan the QR code:

https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2nK0tXDGTUZLiRM



Next Meeting
February 13, 2025!





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Ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu