

Family Engagement Leaders of Ohio

September 30, 2025



Welcome!



Hello!

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



About us

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FELOs at a Glance

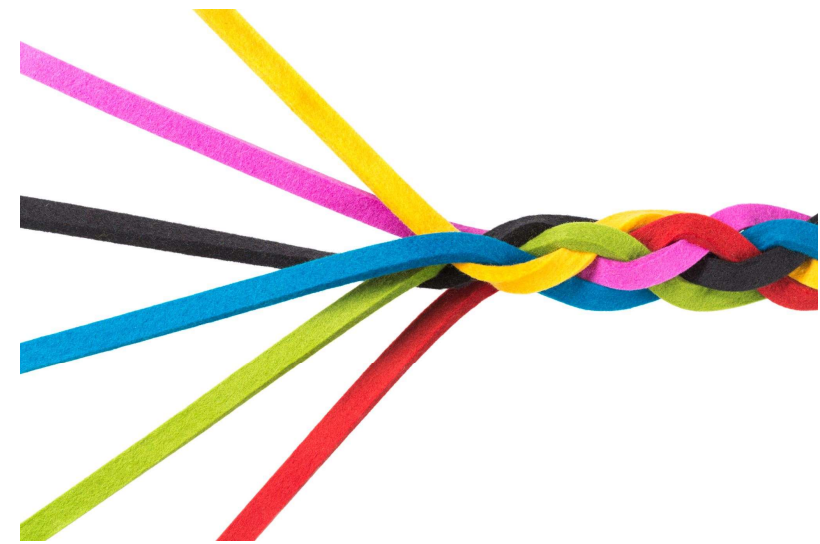


Family Engagement Leaders of Ohio (FELOs) is a virtual professional learning community for family engagement professionals in Ohio's districts and community schools. FELOs brings professionals together to share experiences and to learn how we can build partnerships with all families in our preK – 12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



Colleague Connection

1. Something you remember about the start of the school year from your childhood.
2. How would you describe excellent communication with families?





Agenda

- I. Setting the stage for FELOs
- II. Colleague Connection
- III. Objectives
- IV. Having Hard Conversations
- V. OhSFEC News





Setting the Stage for FELOs

- Stick to the characteristics of effective Communities of Practice- shared purpose, building community, sharing knowledge
- Focus on your work in real time.
- Create and host spaces for informal problem solving and discussion.
- Identify opportunities for the work of FELOs to be presented.
- *What do you wish to experience as a FELO this year?*





Objectives

1. Build a community of inquiry for family engagement
2. Reflect on my own communication during a hard conversation to build awareness and improve future interactions.





Objectives

1. Build a community of inquiry for family engagement
2. Reflect on my own communication during a hard conversation to build awareness and improve future interactions.

On communication, what's a question you have about hearing from families, and/or what's a question you have about informing families?

Please share using the Q&A box.





Guiding Questions

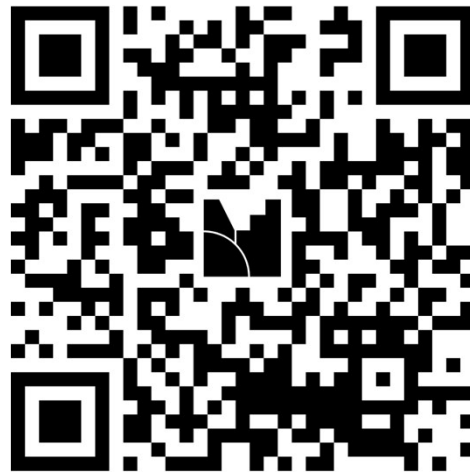
What makes a conversation hard?

How can we prepare for a hard conversation?

Why is it important to navigate hard conversations well?

Communicating with Families When It's Challenging

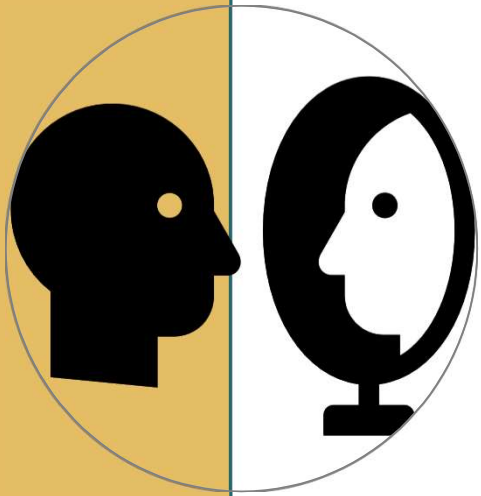
How much do you agree....



Get
Curious!

Emotional Intelligence: Self-awareness

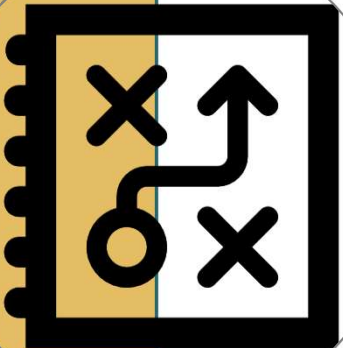
Recognizing your own emotions
as they happen.



Get
Curious!

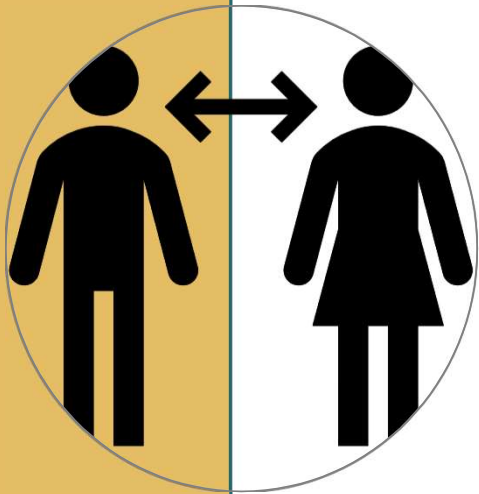
Emotional Intelligence: Self-management

Managing your emotions so they
don't control your behavior.



Get
Curious!

Emotional Intelligence: Social Awareness

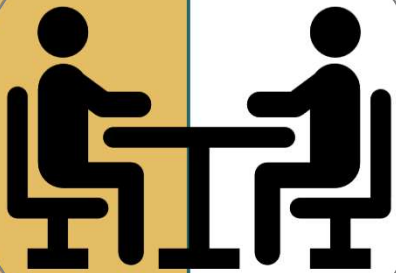


Understanding others' emotions
and perspectives.

Get
Curious!

Emotional Intelligence: Relationship Management

Using awareness of emotions to
communicate and resolve
conflicts effectively.



Get
Curious!



Group Discussion 1

1. What aspect of Emotional Intelligence makes a conversation hard for you?

2. What is an area of growth you want to focus on this year?

Each person will have two minutes to share.



Parent Wise Feedback

- A method for teachers to give feedback to students that builds students' academic mindset, trust, and positive identity.
- We are applying it to how we prepare messages for parents.



Be Wise!

1

Start with Respect & Positive Regard



“Thanks for taking the time to talk today. I know you know your child best.”



Be Wise!

2

Share specific concern or observation



“This week, I noticed [name] has been walking out of class when we start writing.”

Be Wise!

3

Express high expectations and belief in success



“I’m sharing this because I know [name] is a strong student, capable of success.”

Be Wise!

4

Invite Collaboration



“Do you have any ideas about what’s going on? One idea I had is ____; what do you think?”

Be Wise!

5

End with Partnership



“Let’s check in again. Thanks for talking this through. I really value your insight.”



Start with Respect and Positive Regard

“First, I want to say how much I enjoy having Maya in class. She’s curious, asks thoughtful questions, and contributes a lot to our discussions. I really appreciate the support you’ve given her at home — it’s clear she has a strong foundation.”





Share a Specific Concern or Observation

“I’ve noticed that over the past few weeks, some of her homework has been turned in late or only partly finished. That makes it harder for her to practice the skills we’re working on in class.”





Express High Expectations and Belief in Success

“I have high expectations for Maya because I know she’s capable of meeting them. She’s shown she can do excellent work, and I believe with some adjustments, she’ll get right back on track.”





Invite Collaboration

“I’d love to hear your perspective — have you noticed anything at home that might be making homework harder for her lately? Maybe together we can find strategies that will make it easier for her to stay on top of assignments.”





End With Partnership

“My goal is to partner with you to help Maya succeed. Let’s stay in touch about how she’s doing, and please let me know if there are ways I can support her better from school. Together, I know we can help her thrive.”



Wise Feedback Practice

1. Consider an upcoming conversation
2. What will you say in that conversation that uses wise feedback?
3. Group members provide gentle feedback



Resource

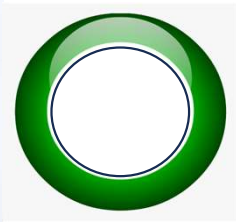
Welcoming Families Communication Toolkit



<https://sites.google.com/view/family-communication-toolkit/home?authuser=0>



Chat Picks



Chat Picks



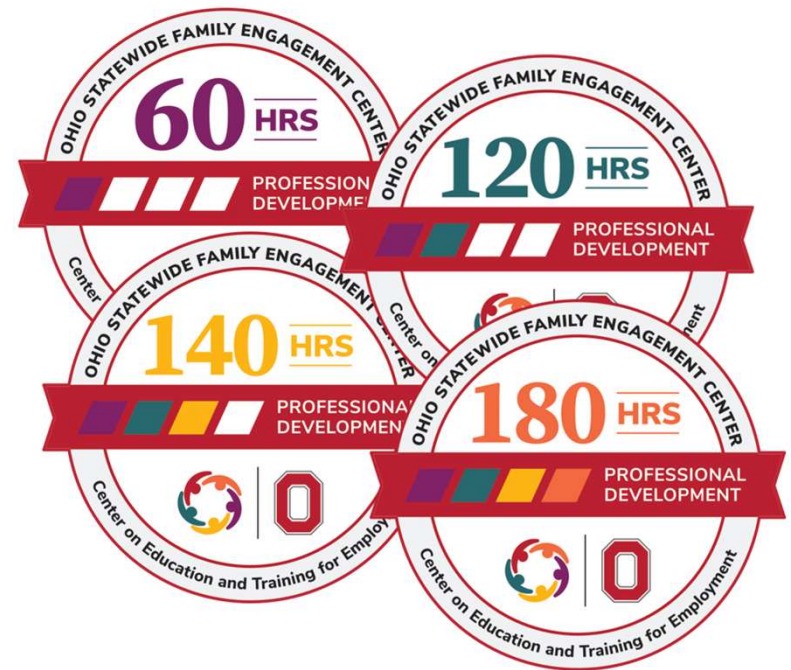
How to handle
when parents do
not communicate
or reply your
communication?

Chat Picks



What effective
tools for engaging
in two-way &
multi-lingual
communication
with families?

OhSFEC Programs and Resources



UPCOMING SEMINAR

Foundations of Family Engagement

START DATE:
OCTOBER 31, 2025

Application open
August 1 to October 17
go.osu.edu/ffelearnmore



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER ON EDUCATION AND
TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT



ONLINE SEMINAR



Multi-Tiered Family Engagement

JANUARY 9-29, 2026

<https://go.osu.edu/mtfelearnmore>

Registration opens: 10/1/25

Last day to register: 12/20/25

**Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center**

LEARN MORE



SEMINAR

Unlocking Early Literacy with Family-Teacher Collaboration

Application opens:
August 1-October 17, 2025

Seminar:
October 31-November 12, 2025
go.osu.edu/unlockinglearnmore



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT





JANUARY – MAY 2026

<https://go.osu.edu/flacademy>

Application Open:

September 10 - October 24, 2025

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LEARN MORE



TRAIN-THE-TRAINER MODEL

Pathways to Success: Facilitator Session

OCTOBER 16, 2025

10AM – NOON EST

go.osu.edu/pathways25

Registration opens: 8/26

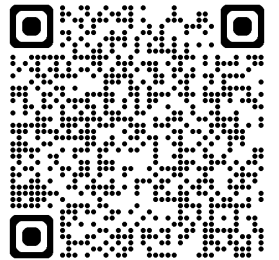
Last day to register: 10/14

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REGISTER HERE





JOIN THE NETWORK!



<https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/resources/onps-self-paced-seminar/>



*Sign up for
News and
Guidance:*



Free e-newsletter | Delivered to your inbox every other month

<https://go.osu.edu/newsguide>

?s

Closing thoughts or Questions



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_2nK0tXDGTUZZLiRM



Next Meeting

December 2, 2025!





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Ohio Statewide
**Family
Engagement
Center**

—at The Ohio State University—



OhioSFEC@osu.edu



**Ohio Statewide Family
Engagement Center**



Ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu