

NEXT STEPS

The next steps include forming a planning team of staff and family members to finalize the structure and goals of the Parent Advisory Group. Outreach materials will be developed and distributed to recruit a diverse group of families. A kickoff meeting will be scheduled to launch the group and establish norms. Translation and scheduling supports will be arranged to ensure accessibility. After launch, the group will begin meeting regularly, collecting feedback, and refining engagement strategies based on family input.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge the families, students, and staff for their ongoing support and collaboration. Special thanks to community partners and cultural liaisons who help ensure inclusive engagement and strengthen connections between families and the school community.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Families in Motion



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY/Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center**

**Haneen
Columbus, OH**

INTRODUCTION/NEED ADDRESSED

The need for this project stems from limited and inconsistent family engagement across diverse ethnic groups, which can lead to gaps in communication, trust, and shared decision-making between families and school staff. Many families may feel underrepresented or unsure of how to effectively voice their perspectives due to cultural, language, or systemic barriers. Without a structured and inclusive platform for input, valuable insights from families are often missed, which can impact student success and the overall school climate.

Establishing a parent advisory group addresses this need by creating a welcoming, organized space where all families feel empowered to participate, ensuring that school initiatives are more responsive, equitable, and reflective of the community they serve.

GOAL and OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project is to increase family engagement across all ethnic groups by creating a structured, inclusive parent advisory group. This group will provide a consistent space for families to share concerns, contribute ideas, and collaborate with school staff to build a stronger, more connected school community.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DESCRIPTION

In the first month, a planning team of staff and family representatives will define goals, meeting structures, and supports such as translation and flexible scheduling. During months one and two, the school will conduct intentional outreach using culturally responsive communication and personal invitations to ensure diverse representation.

In month two, the PAG will launch with a welcoming kickoff meeting focused on building relationships, establishing group norms, and identifying family priorities. From months three through ten, the group will meet regularly with structured agendas that include open discussion, feedback on school initiatives, and collaborative problem-solving. Ongoing communication will ensure transparency by sharing updates and demonstrating how family input influences decisions.

Mid-year and end-of-year evaluations will assess participation, engagement, and overall impact. Feedback will guide improvements to the group's structure and practices. To sustain the initiative, parent leaders will be identified and supported in taking active roles, ensuring the advisory group continues to grow and strengthen the school community.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Parent Advisory Group will increase family participation across all ethnic groups and help families feel more valued and included. Communication between families and school staff will improve, becoming more consistent and culturally responsive. The school will gain more diverse input for decision-making, leading to stronger, more inclusive practices. Over time, this will build trust, strengthen the school community, and support student success through improved engagement, attendance, and overall well-being.

EXPECTED CHALLENGES

Potential challenges include low initial participation, especially from underrepresented groups, due to trust barriers or past experiences. Language differences and scheduling conflicts may limit consistent involvement. Ensuring equitable representation across all ethnic groups may also be difficult. Additionally, maintaining ongoing engagement and clearly demonstrating the impact of family input on school decisions will require consistent communication, intentional outreach, and sustained effort from both staff and families.