Family Engagement Leaders of Ohio

September 29, 2026



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center

Welcome!

About us

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Check-In

Share your name and role on our check in form



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. Welcome
II. Objectives
III. Colleague Connection
IV. Family Engagement Quarterly Topic: Two-Way Communication
V. Featured Discussion: Communication Effort & Impact Analysis
VI. Ohio SFEC Programs and Resources
VII. Questions and Feedback Survey

Objectives

1. Build a community of inquiry for family engagement

2. Analyze current communication strategies to identify priorities for strengthening two-way communication.

Colleague Connection

What is your favorite thing about fall?

What is one of your most effective family communication strategies? What is one of your biggest communication challenges?



Two-Way Communication

Effective Communication with Families

Two-Way Communication Defined

How do you define two-way communication?

Two-way communication involves a reciprocal dialogue that occurs between a teacher and parent in real time
(Graham-Clay, 2024)

Balanced and Effective Sounds Like…

- Listening
- Informing
- Contributing questions
- Sharing information and feedback

Communication Strategies

What effective strategies have you heard of or used?

- Phone calls
- Home visits
- Conferences

Effective Two-Way Communication Helps…

What benefits and positive outcomes have you experienced?

- Establish a culture of trust
- Leads to positive student outcomes
  - Improved attendance rates
  - Homework completion

Professional Learning

Review one-way communication strategies. How can those be launched to two-way communication?

Professional Learning

Practice using AI tools to rewrite communications to be fewer words, use less jargon, and include more bullet points for smaller steps

Professional Learning

Practice using translation resources to communicate with parents

Google translate, Talking Points, other professional services

*Practice between staff first

Professional Learning

Welcoming School Walkthrough Toolkit

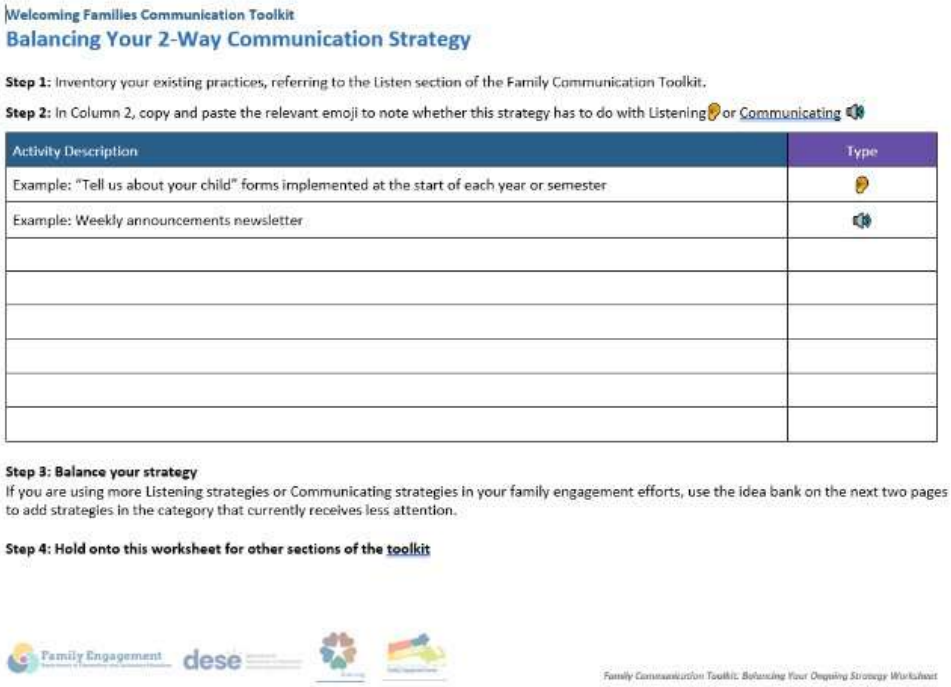
https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Welcoming-Atmosphere-Walk-Through-Toolkit-SST-6.pdf



Professional Learning

Balanced Communication Strategy Table

https://go.osu.edu/balancedcom



Welcoming Families Communication Toolkit

Balancing Your 2-Way Communication Strategy

Step 1: Inventory your existing practices, referring to the Listen section of the Family Communication Toolkit.

Step 2: In Column 2, copy and paste the relevant emoji to note whether this strategy has to do with Listening or Communicating

Activity Description	Type
Example: "Tell us about your child" forms implemented at the start of each year or semester	
Example: Weekly announcements newsletter	

Step 3: Balance your strategy

If you are using more Listening strategies or Communicating strategies in your family engagement efforts, use the idea bank on the next two pages to add strategies in the category that currently receives less attention.

Step 4: Hold onto this worksheet for other sections of the toolkit

Family Engagement dese

Family Communication Toolkit: Balancing Your Ongoing Strategy Worksheet

Effort & Impact Analysis

1. List the major strategies and activities (up to 10) you and your staff are using in the space below.
2. Prioritize! First, think about effort. How much effort do each of the strategies above require for your staff?
3. Now, think about the impact on your student outcomes.
4. Order your priorities.

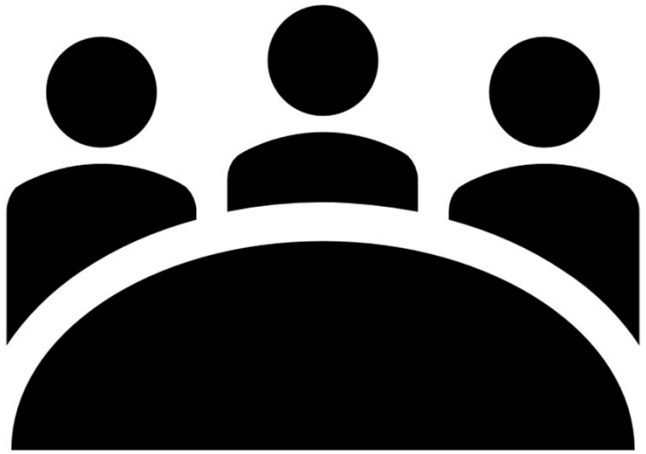
Let's Discuss

1. Everyone introduces themselves with name, role, and organization.

2. Take turns discussing your analysis. Each person has **5 minutes**.

3. Share your A1 strategies and your responses to #4 on your analysis.

4. If time remains before breakout time ends, you may have open discussion on two-way communication and/or your analysis.



Debrief

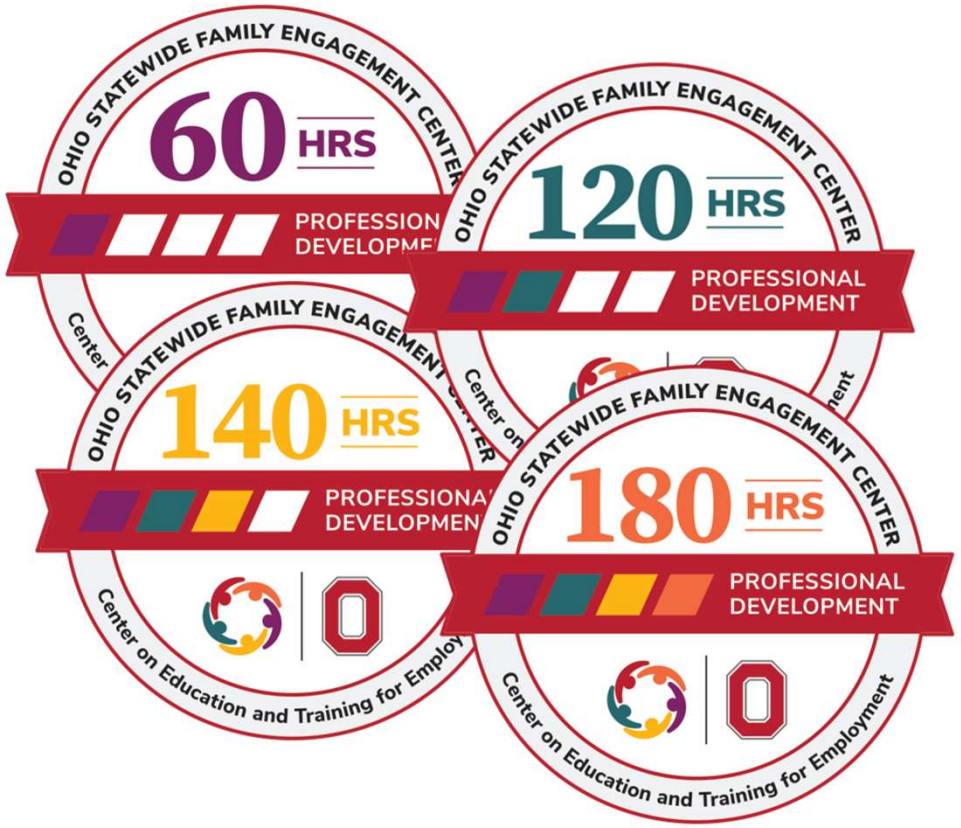
What was most helpful about having this conversation with colleagues?

What new perspective or idea did you gain from your group discussion?

How did this discussion help you think differently about communicating with families?

How could conversations like this support your work throughout the year?

Ohio SFEC Programs and Resources




A sweet resource for school leaders
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?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_2nK0tXDGTUZLiRM

Next Meeting

December 8, 2026

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