

From Involvement to Engagement: Transforming Family Engagement Practices

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Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- Family Engagement vs Family Involvement
- Tennessee Family-School Partnership Standards
- What is High-Quality Family Engagement?
- Family-School Partnership Standard Activity
- Lebanon Special School District
- Reflection



Welcome & Introduction

Family Involvement vs Family Engagement

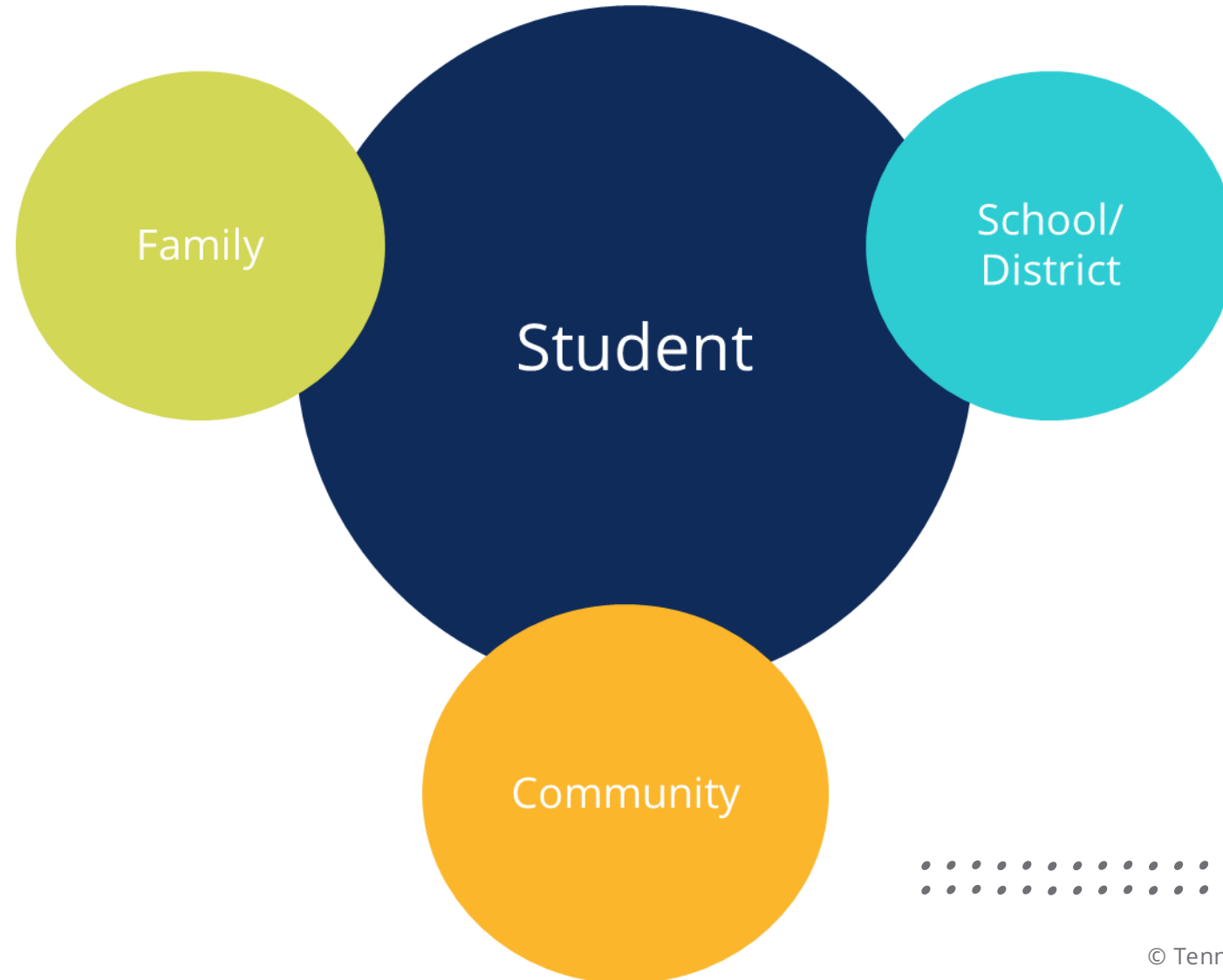
Family Involvement vs Family Engagement

- “Parent/Family Involvement: Parent/family involvement refers to actions or activities that parents/family members do to support their child’s learning.”
- “Parent/Family Engagement: Parent/family engagement refers to actions or activities that promote proactive and collaborative partnerships. The LEA or public charter school actively and consistently engages families through meaningful two-way communication solicits feedback and input, and encourages leadership and decision making opportunities.”

From Tennessee State Board of Education Parent/Family Involvement and Engagement Policy 4.207



Family Engagement through Connections



How to Connect with Families

- Welcoming Environment
- Initial Communication
- Belonging
- Open Door Policy
- Flexible Scheduling
- Professional Development



Tennessee Family-School Partnership Domains

- (1) Welcome All Families
 - Creating a welcoming environment
 - Foster trust and collaboration
 - Belonging
- (2) Communicate Effectively
 - Building trust through communication
 - Clear, consistent, and responsive to needs
- (3) Support Student Success
 - Partnering for academic growth
 - Tools of support

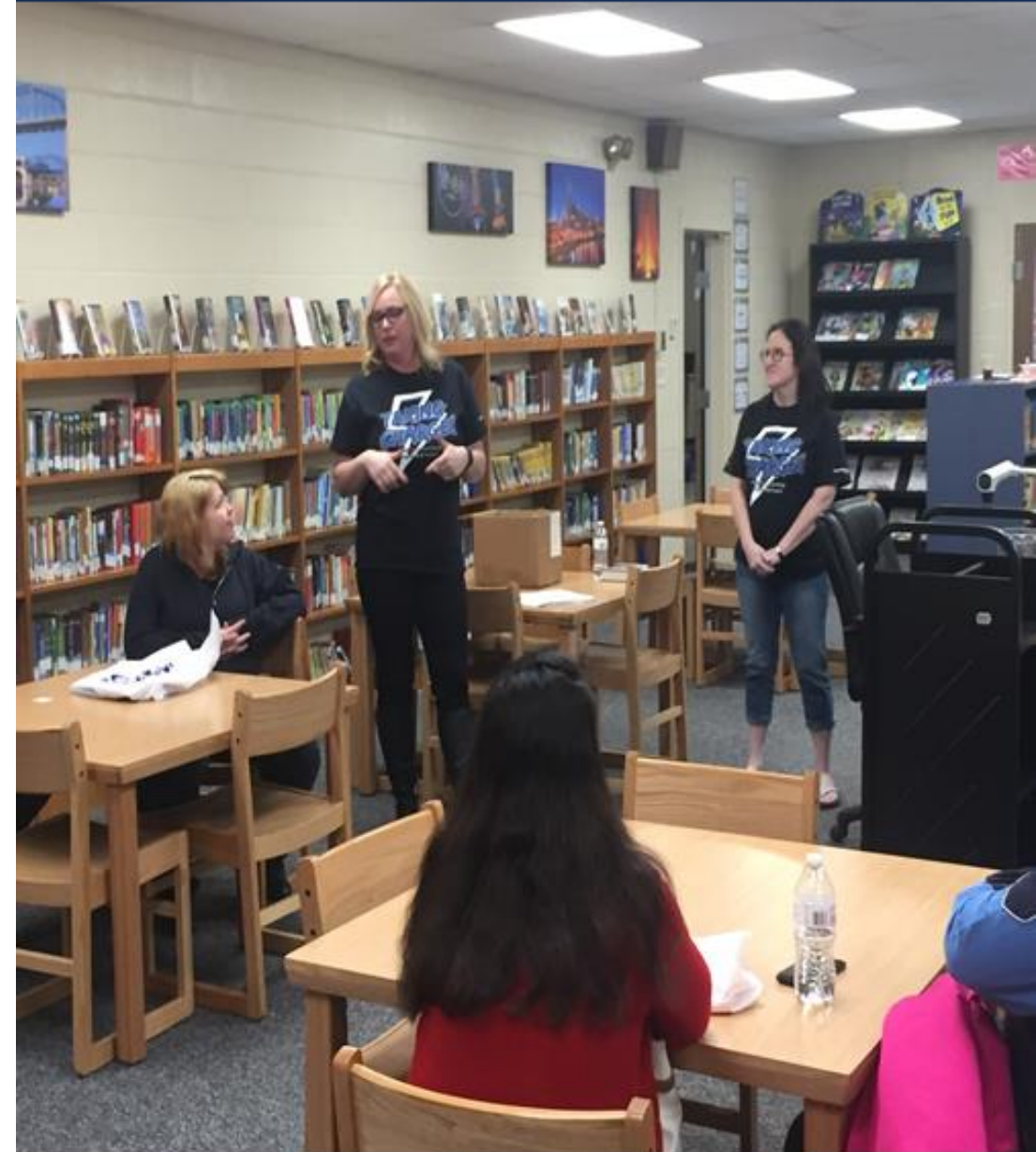
Tennessee Family-School Partnership Domains

- (4) Speak Up for Every Child
 - Advocating for student success
 - Feedback
 - Listening to family concerns and advocate with an identified need
- (5) Share Power
 - Collaborating in decision-making
 - Two-way communication
- (6) Collaborate with Community
 - Strengthening partnerships through relationships with local organizations to support families.
 - Involve community partners in school events.

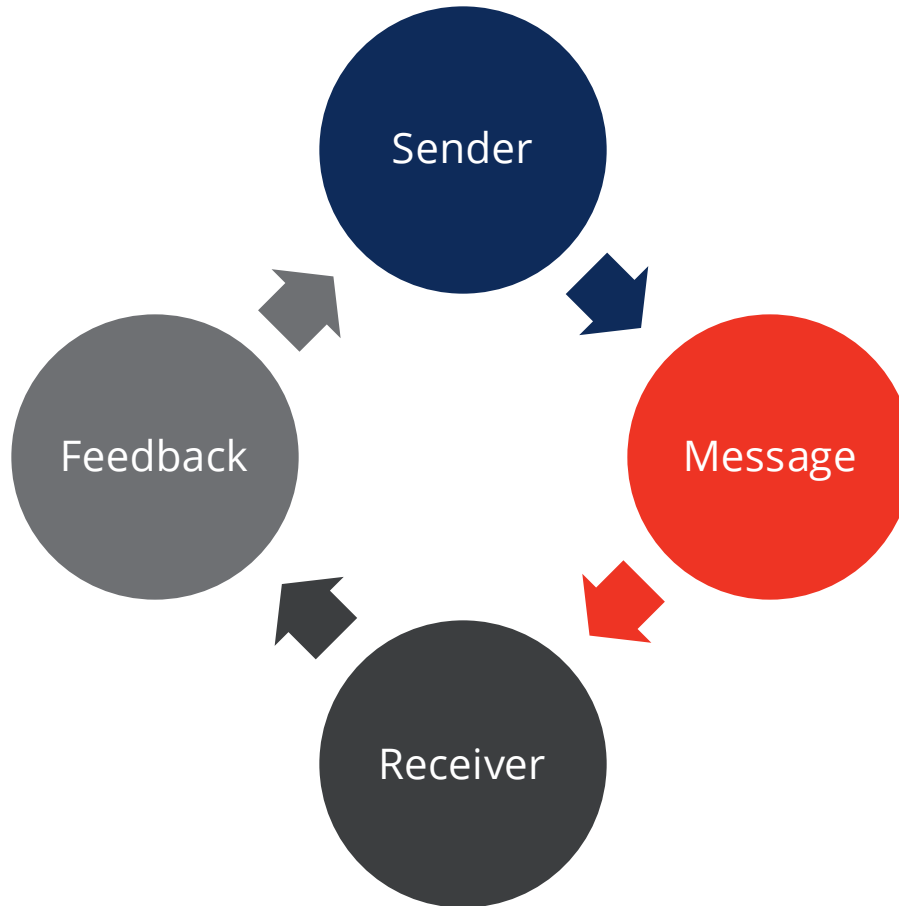
Communication on School Systems

Communication on School Systems

- Clarifying school policies, rules, and expectations
 - Remove Jargon & Acronyms
 - Key Players & Roles
- Regular updates on school decisions and programs
- Provide multiple channels of communication
- Ensure families know their opinions and contributions matter.
 - Use feedback and survey results to ensure effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications.



Communicating Effectively



- Communication Plan
 - Structure for sending home information related to student learning
 - Includes multiple modes of communication consistently
 - Tracks strategies that do not work
 - Ensures opportunity to provide feedback and dialogue
- Two-Way Communication
 - Home visits, e-mail, surveys, social media, student-led opportunities, family conferences, phone calls

Effective Family Engagement

- Understanding differing family needs
 - Non-English speaking families
 - Special education families
- Involving families in the learning process
- Surveys
- Consistency



Family Engagement in School Activities

- Hosting Family-Friendly Events
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Family/Parent Advisory Council/Committees
- Parent Workshops
 - Coffee & Conversations with school staff
- Reflection and Follow Up



Supporting Families with Resources

Supporting Families with Resources

- Identify and understanding family needs
- Research
- Create partnerships with community organizations
- Resource Guide or Virtual Resource Portal
- Resource Friday
- Family Resource Center

Bridging the Gap in Family Engagement Activity

Tennessee Family-School Partnership Standards

1. Welcome All Families
2. Communicate Effectively
3. Support Student Success
4. Speak Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborate with Community



High-Quality Family Engagement in Lebanon Special School District



Lebanon Special School District



High-Quality: How do you *share* connections with families/staff?

- Partnering with multiple departments, our district created a Family Intake Form to identify family strengths and allow parents to select from a dropdown menu of resources their family could benefit from.
- One of our Lipscomb counseling candidates also asked us to create a staff “cheat sheet” to at-a-glance be able to contact us or direct a parent in the right direction for additional resources.

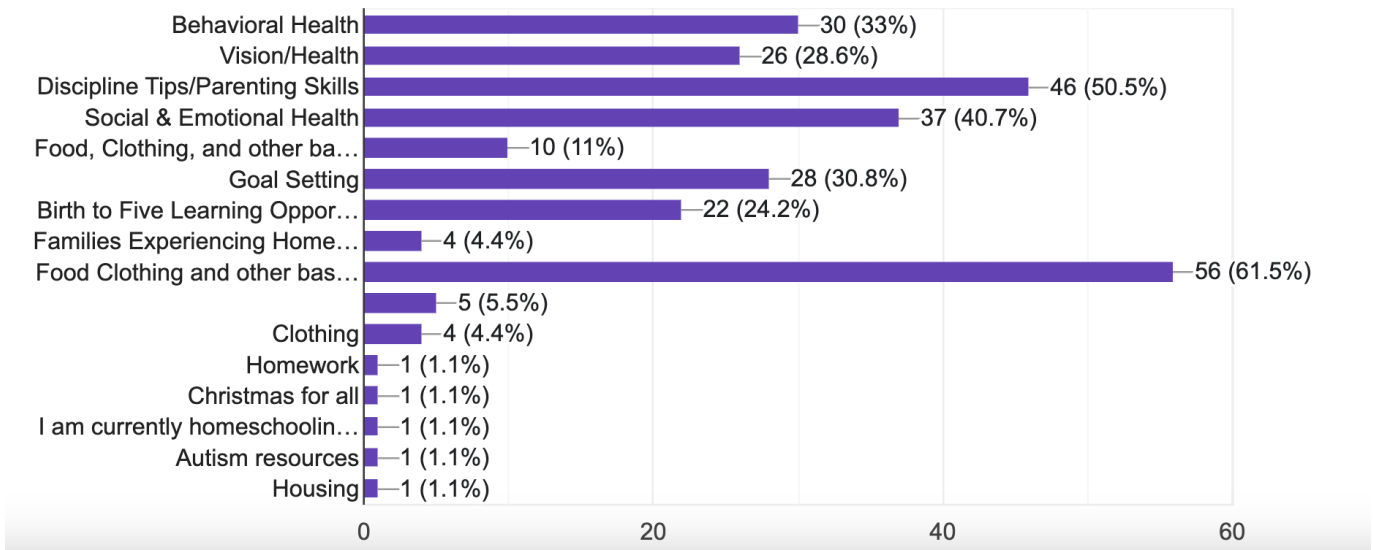
The image shows a screenshot of the LSSD Family Resource Center website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, District, Departments, and Human Resources. A red arrow points to the 'Departments' link. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Family Resource Center » Family Resource Center'. The main content area is titled 'Family Resource Center' and 'FAMILY INTAKE FORM'. It includes a QR code and the text 'Let's Work Together! You have **STRENGTHS** and so do we! Please scan the QR code so the LSSD team can best partner with your family!'. Below this, there is a section titled '¡Vamos a Trabajar Juntos! ¡Tú tienes **FORTALEZAS** y nosotros también! ¡Escanee el código QR para que el equipo de LSSD pueda asociarse mejor con su familia!'. On the right side, there is a red telephone icon with the number '615-453-2693' and the text 'CALL!'. Below the telephone icon, there is a section titled 'Employee Resources' with links for 'Absence Tracking/Substitute Request', 'Athletic & Student Injury Form - Google Form Link', 'Employee Accident Report Form - Google Form Link', and 'Employee Referral Form - Online HR Form'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'STAFF REFERRAL FORM - GLASSES, FOOD, ETC.' with a red arrow pointing to it. Below this, there is a 'BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM' logo and two staff members: Beth Petty, Family Resource Center Director/ Community Relations Manager, and Neika Adsmund, Family Resource Center Administrative Assistant. Both have email addresses: beth.petty@lssd.org and neika.adsmund@lssd.org. A red arrow points to the 'E-MAIL US FOR FORM' link.

High-Quality: How do you *share* connections with families/staff?

Our family would like more information about:

91 responses

 [Copy chart](#)



Once a family chooses resources from the dropdown menu, various departments within the district are alerted, and follow-up is made accordingly.

For example, if a parent selects behavioral health, discipline tips/parenting skills, or social and emotional health, our Behavioral Health team leads the case management for this family.

The intake form is also a great tool for conducting a family needs assessment.

Assemble Your Team: Leadership



Heather Gallaher
LSSD School Board
Chairwoman

Get to know your school board members, invite them to your events, then report back to them. Gallaher, and board members Joel Thacker and Mark Tomlinson, lend support across the district to staff, students and families.



Brian Hutto
LSSD Director of Schools

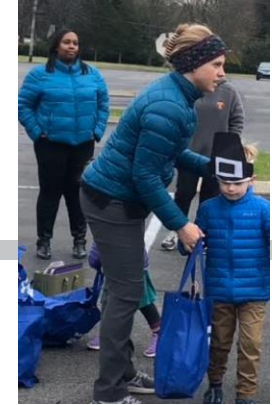
When your director knows what is available, they will call on you and even come and help in times of need, such as extended snow days. In this case, our director asked us to host a drive-thru food pick-up and was there to help pack and distribute.



Cherrye Robertson
LSSD Director of Support
Services

Our success partners include:

- School Admin,
- Counselors and Staff
- Child Nutrition
- Behavioral Health
- CSH
- School-age Child Care
- Alternative School
- Technology, Transportation
- Maintenance Lead or support as needed!



Charise McDaniel
TN Family Support &
Engagement Manager

Don't forget to utilize all that the state has to offer - meetings, help with your goals and reports, and spotlights in the CSH Chronicles! They set us up for success and work across departments to make sure we have what we need.

Assemble Your Team: Students, Families, & Community Stakeholders



FACE Advisory Council

Our Family & Community Engagement Council (FACE) covers FRC, CSH, Federal Programs, and Pre-K. We have over 50 members, including parents, students, and community stakeholders.



Students Leaders

Across the board, work with people who want to work with you - make it fun and meaningful for students, and they will call you to come back and work with you again. That is where true leadership qualities begin to develop! They get 'WHY' we do it!



Parents

Parents who experience the value of your programs are your best source of advertisement for future events. They are also your best way to get data for reports, needs assessments, and any grants you might apply for.



Community Stakeholders

The more the community knows about what you are doing, the more you can easily acquire volunteers, donations, and advocates for your programs. Civic organizations are eager to help develop future student leaders!

Build Your Resources: Monetary & Products



Local donors with a shared vision

Local donors with a shared vision, are a great asset. It's a win/win for them because when they host a book drive, it boosts their sales. Over the last two years, BAM has collected \$6,000 worth of books for our summer programs.



Student leadership opportunities

Donations from the Community Resource Center allow us to engage Alternative School students in a Hygiene Store. They write resumes, then interview for various jobs from inventory to quality control.



Programs need our families/data

Programs like Second Harvest want to partner for the success of their programming. They need our families and our data. Make sure to stay in contact with them and share numbers and success stories! It's a two-way street!



Premier Sponsor of Money/Volunteers

For a decade, Vulcan Materials has helped our district by retrofitting/purchasing our "Fleet of Five" summer programs vehicles. They partner with us to host quarry tours and beautification projects and provide guest geologists!

Build Your Resources: In-Kind & Volunteers



Church sponsors with shared goals

First United Methodist Church lives out its goal to eradicate hunger in Wilson County. They allow us to host our FACE Advisory Council meetings in their church, and host and fund our Cooking & Saving Programs.



Student leadership opportunities

For more than 20 years, Friendship Christian School has been a valued partner, but in the last five years, their Leadership Through Volunteerism students have helped mentor our younger students in design of programs and Shark Tank events.



Local government hosting events

Local government agencies, such as the Jimmy Floyd Family Fun Center, provide events like the annual Youth Leadership Academy and, most recently, a GrandFamilies Gala with free admission to the Center and a myriad of free resources.



Secret Weapons

Keep a few trusted friends on hand (retired teachers are always the best) to call at a moment's notice to assist with that opportunity that comes up out of nowhere and is too good to pass on! Make sure they are key in setting goals.

High-Quality: Share events, data, credit with District & Stakeholders

	<p>DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION</p> <p><u>SINGLE CLUB PROJECT</u></p> <p>ROTARY YEAR 2023-2024</p> <p>(Applications due by January 31, 2023)</p>	
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Project Name

SUCCESS

(Strengthening Confidence & Creativity to Expand Self-Sufficiency)

\$16,000

Addressing Humanitarian Need: Family Sustainability



Sharing the data behind our Cooking & Savings classes and other student driven programs led to a \$16,000 grant from our local Lunch Rotary group. The grant was called SUCCESS. After completing that grant, we were awarded a state grant for \$56,000 that allowed us to continue the classes, summer programming, and expand to add camps for students. That grant was called SUCCESS KIDS (Kindness in Delivering Service). Data from these two grants led to an increase in funding from our district for summer drivers and book bus aides (essential to data success)! Be on the Neon!

Advisory Council

It's great to pack a room for
your advisory council, but...



High-Quality: Let students/stakeholders tell your shared story



Combine resources and cut down on multiple meetings - other departments in your district may need to host advisory council meetings too. Students, parents and community stakeholders leave knowing what your district is about. When they have a broad overview, they better understand how to help you set and achieve goals!

Some of our best practices have come from ideas from our Advisory Council. Over the last five years, many of our goals have been driven by student leadership, and part of taking the lead is public speaking!

Training Student Leaders

It's great to host student meetings and get them involved in service learning, but...



High Quality: Lunch & Learns- Students/Stakeholders Sharing Knowledge

- With our Alternative School students, we host a monthly Lunch & Learn and invite students and stakeholders to engage/train the group in topics that relate to the life skills lessons they are learning.
- Last year, ASP students ran a grocery store, and this year, they will man a hygiene store. The same students and stakeholders who visit students during the Lunch & Learns are also invited to help with job interviews and other activities that build relationships.
- This year, a student group is also gathering business attire for students to wear during their interview process and at the Lunch & Learn sessions. All roads lead to leadership and success!



Summer Programming

It's beyond great to feed students and hand out books for the summer, but...



High Quality: Let your data tell your shared story

Last summer, almost 50 students participated in First Lady Maria Lee's Kids Serve Summer Challenge, logging in hours of service related to our Book Bus and a local senior citizen's center.

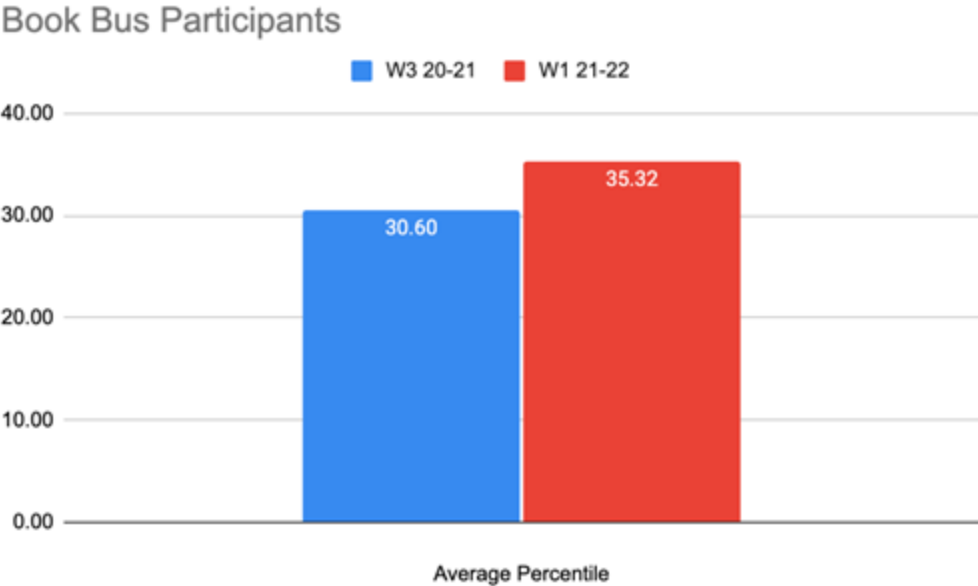
More than 100 students wrote and/or illustrated books which are now part of the Young Author's Corner of our Neon Book Buses, showcased at Cumberland University.

Our district partners with our local college, Cumberland University and their Philomatheans, to expand afterschool literacy programs, as well as host Parents as Teachers, a birth to five program we co-facilitate with Wilson County Schools and our Head Start program.



High-Quality: Let your data tell your shared story

263 students visited the Book Bus 3 times or more. Of those students, 227 had reading universal screener national percentile rank data points for both the end of the 2020-2021 school year and the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. The graph below shows the average national percentile ranking for those 227 students for both data points. The Book Bus participants showed an increase of 4.71 in their national percentile ranking from the end of last school year to the beginning of this school year. In comparison, students in the district with both data points that did not visit the book bus only had an increase of 1.59 in their average percentile rank.



Work with your technology department to help you track data. Keep it simple for everyone involved, so you enjoy what you are doing!

We started this practice in 2021, and the inclusion of data has led to multiple Book Bus grants through the Governor’s Early Literacy Foundation (GELF) and in partnership with our School Age Child Care (SACC) Lottery for Education Afterschool Programs (LEAPS).

High-Quality: Let your data tell your shared story

GRADE LEVEL	IMPROVED
1	28
2	32
3	43
4	44
5	19
6	19
7	13
8	6

This year’s data won’t be complete until we compare it to previous scores, but last year’s data continued to be positive!

Of the 411 book bus participants who visited three or more times, 204 had improved academic performance. The table shows how many students per grade level had improved scores.

We expanded to include books and a full-time aide on both our buses. Our aides are instrumental in engaging adults to visit with their child and in helping students pick grade-level appropriate books.

High-Quality: Let your data tell your shared story



It's great to share your success with the local media, but...

High-Quality: Let your data tell your shared story



Celebrating Big!!! Event at the
Don Fox Park
10 Years of Summer Feeding &
Reading
98,839 Breakfasts Served
166,003 Lunches Served
50,000+ books distributed for
home libraries
5,000+ parent/caregiver visits
Throw in a little
geographical and
cultural learning with
a visit from the
International Folkfest
Dancers; present
them with handmade
gifts from students!



Build a Sense of Community

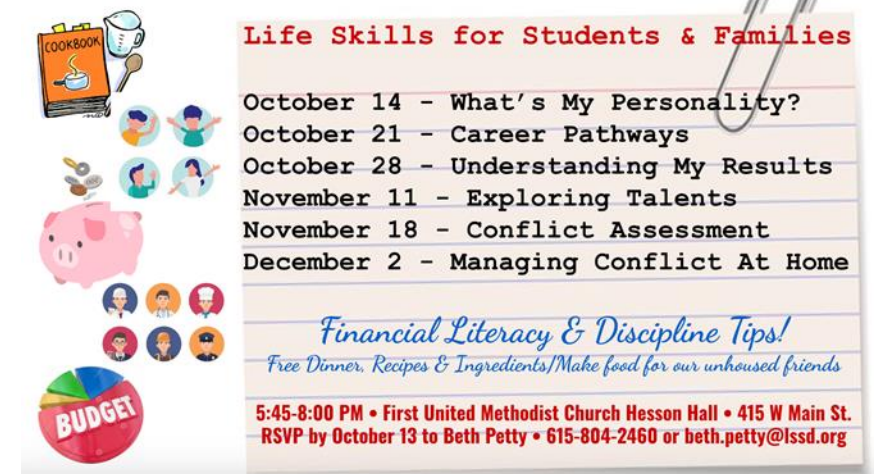
- It's great to host a well-attended family event...



High-Quality: Multiple Departments share in the design/execution

Add value to your engagement experiences by teaming up with others - we started our Cooking & Savings with crock pot recipes and a short financial literacy segment.

This year, we will incorporate a Myers-Briggs Guesstimate and Career Pathways assessment, home conflict and discipline tips. We utilize school counselor candidates from the Lipscomb Counseling Program and our Behavior Health Team, who will also present discipline tips at food giveaways.



Life Skills for Students & Families

October 14	- What's My Personality?
October 21	- Career Pathways
October 28	- Understanding My Results
November 11	- Exploring Talents
November 18	- Conflict Assessment
December 2	- Managing Conflict At Home

Financial Literacy & Discipline Tips!
Free Dinner. Recipes & Ingredients/Make food for our unhoused friends

**5:45-8:00 PM • First United Methodist Church Hesson Hall • 415 W Main St.
RSVP by October 13 to Beth Petty • 615-804-2460 or beth.petty@lssd.org**

High-Quality: Let Celebrations be shared among Stakeholders

To date, we have graduated more than 60 families from our six-week Cooking & Savings Classes. We partner with our Alternative School Program, and if a parent attends with their student, the child can earn up to six days out of the program early.

More than 85% of students and parents participating in our Cooking & Savings classes report an increase in financial literacy, and more than 75% report positive changes in eating habits and social/emotional health.



High-Quality: Let's participants *share* in the design/execution

Social and emotional health is a very important goal in our district, and all departments are challenged to add to overall health.

After hosting several Cooking & Savings Classes, families asked if there was a way they could help the FRC, so now, rather than making food for themselves, students and parents give back to the community by preparing casseroles for our unhoused neighbors! Crowd favorite!



Students in the Lead

- It's great to get students involved and trained to be leaders, but...



High-Quality: Let students *share* their voice and talents



Utilizing funds from civic engagement grants, students came up with ideas for camps and then designed and hosted the events. The camp ideas included: Cooking Camps, Forensic Science Camps, Young Authors Conference, Family Night and Showcase, inclusion of a Youth Authors Corner on our Book Buses, and a Sports Camp.

Friendship Christian School's Leadership Through Volunteerism high school students served as mentors to students involved in camps and Cooking & Savings classes.

High-Quality: Let students *share* their voice and talents



Again, focusing on social and emotional health, the district utilized the culinary talents of students involved in our cooking camps and summer programs to serve meals to LSSD staff, and to reward our summer feeding crew, TEAM NEON, for jobs well done!

Find ways to work your student and family engagement into improving your school climate! Staff love to be loved and acknowledged! At the suggestion of a student group, we used grant funding to let them treat the teachers!



High-Quality: Let students *share* their voice and talents

For the last two years, we have had parents call and ask if their students could volunteer in the FRC. A couple of these students have been past Alternative School students. Because LSSD offers leadership opportunities across the district, every student has the opportunity to thrive!

On September 8, a group of student summer volunteers will be spotlighted to ***share*** their experiences at our monthly school board meeting. In addition to the daily work of the FRC, these students were also asked to design and paint a mural at the bus shop to honor drivers and aides!



High-Quality: Districts *share* their success and strategies



Lebanon Special School District

Contact us! We love to *share*

Beth Petty, Family Resource Center Director/
Community Relations Manager
beth.petty@lssd.org

Neika Adsmond, Family Resource Center
Administrative Assistant
neika.adsmond@lssd.org

Office Number
615-453-2693



Reflection

- What are your school's strengths in family engagement?
- Which areas could be improved to better support family connections at your school?
- What immediate actions can your school take to enhance family engagement?
- How can you contribute to making family engagement a priority in your school/district?



2025

**FEDERAL
PROGRAMS
INSTITUTE**

**MEMPHIS
TO
BRISTOL**

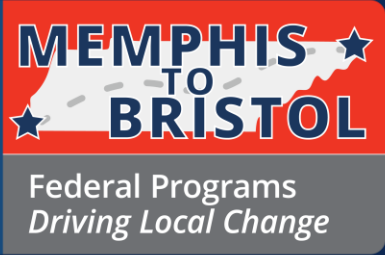
Federal Programs
Driving Local Change

Please share your session feedback



You may access the PD Survey by navigating here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/sbRAwQUV0d>



Up Next...

Click one of the links below to seamlessly join the next session of your choice.

9:00–10:10 a.m. ET 8:00–9:10 a.m. CT	A Road Map to Supplement, Not Supplant Cindy Smith Taffe Bishop
	Crossroads of ESSA Implementation: Flexibilities and Waivers Debby Thompson
	Common ESSA Findings & How to Avoid Them Brinn Obermiller



Thank You!

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