



Back to School: How to Build School-Family Partnership

Project AWARE Ohio would like to share an information brief entitled *Family Engagement: Building Family-School Partnership* that has been developed by our partners at The Ohio State University's College of Education and Human Ecology. This information brief provides tips and skills for engaging families, a helpful topic to consider as many professionals, caregivers, and students begin the new school year. The information brief outlines what school professionals can do to build their family engagement skills by truly involving parents in their student's education. It includes resources such as professional and family versions of the Family Engagement Scale, a resource that school professionals can use to identify skills to develop and create an action plan in order to engage families to support the mental and behavioral health of children, and a detailed guide which includes steps and guidelines to help schools develop a plan for partnering with families to support children's mental and behavioral health and wellbeing, among other resources and tools.

Learn More about Family Engagement for Supporting Behavioral and Mental Health

- **PBIS Family Engagement Rubrics for Tier I and II:** <http://u.osu.edu/familyschoolpartnerships/pbis/>
- **Interactive Guides to Establishing a Family Engagement Team and Strategic Planning for Engaging All Families:** <https://u.osu.edu/familyschoolpartnerships/documents/>
- **Family Engagement Webinars:** <https://u.osu.edu/familyschoolpartnerships/mh/>
 - Engaging Families to support the mental and behavioral health of children;
 - What Parents Want Professionals to Know;
 - Ask a Parent;
 - Engaging Fathers in their Children's Education.
- **A wide variety of resources for families and professionals can be found through your regional Ohio Department of Education state support team:** <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/School-Improvement/State-Support-Teams>
- **Connect with a local National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Representative, and learn about the NAMI Parent Advocacy Connection:** http://www.namiohio.org/mental_health_programs/parent_advocacy
- **NAMI Booklets for purchase:** www.nami.org
 - A Family Guide to Mental Health: What You Need to Know
 - A Family Guide: What Families Need to Know about Adolescent Depression
 - Parents and Teachers as Allies: Recognizing Early-onset Mental Illness in Children and Adolescents
- **NAMI Brochures:** Available from the NAMI Ohio office or a local NAMI affiliate
 - Ending the Silence: An interactive presentation that helps teens to learn about the warning signs of mental health conditions, as well as what steps they should take to find support for themselves or their friends.
 - Parents and Teachers as Allies: An In-Service Presentation for School Personnel.
- **For information about meaningfully engaging fathers: Contact Ohio Commission on Fatherhood:** <http://fatherhood.ohio.gov/>.
- **For more information or support for building partnerships with families:** Contact Barbara Boone at boone.32@osu.edu or <https://u.osu.edu/familyschoolpartnerships/>.

The Project AWARE Ohio team includes partners in 3 county ESCs. If you are from those local areas and want more information about Project AWARE services, please contact:

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