



REGION 17  
Idaho  
Montana

# Exploring the Power of Engaging Families and Community

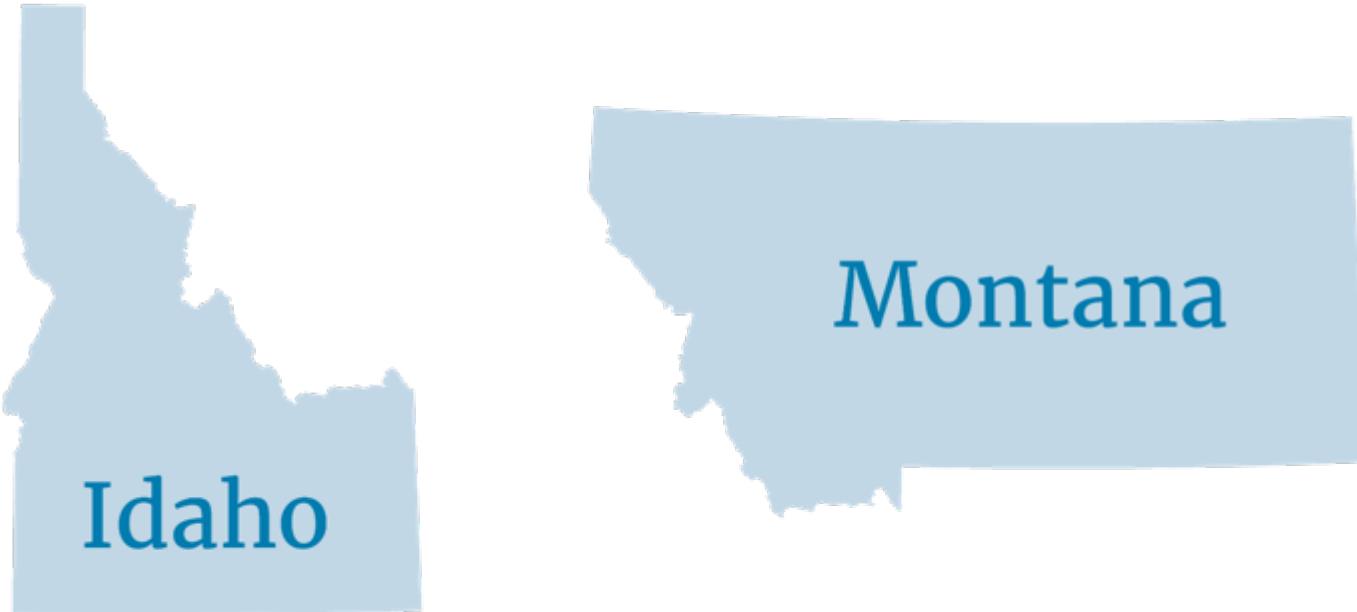
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Development Associate*

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Photo is for illustrative purposes only.  
Any person depicted in the photo is a model.

# **Building State Capacity to Improve Student Outcomes**

As education leaders in Idaho and Montana work to improve student outcomes, close achievement gaps, and increase the quality of instruction, the Region 17 Comprehensive Center (CC) is at their side.



# Resources for Today

- » Use chat box (not Q & A) so we are able to monitor
- » Interactive Session: We will be asking for you to request to share video and audio for several activities. Please consider stepping outside of your comfort zone into your learning zone so we can learn from each other
- » Google document for your notes (Make a Copy)  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WzMhntIUEg9LD1\\_LcgnfiYID3LO67yBerbvsw6wEQc/copy](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WzMhntIUEg9LD1_LcgnfiYID3LO67yBerbvsw6wEQc/copy)
- » PDF version of document in chat



# Welcome!

Please introduce yourself in the chat

- » Name
- » School/ District
- » What is your role in the district?



# Word Cloud

What does Family Engagement FEEL like at your school?

<https://www.menti.com/izdqms87xv>



# Session Objectives

Authentic family engagement builds stronger school communities and lays the foundation for effective school-family partnership. Explore practical tools for improving authentic family engagement and strengthening school communities.

Participants will learn how to create meaningful dialogue and opportunities to partner with students, families, school staff, and community organizations. Leveraging the partnership, staff will learn how to capture the stakeholders' expertise to use the most effective strategies and supports for the community's most vulnerable students.



# Connect to Research



Parent involvement in education is crucial. No matter their income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school.



Regardless of family income or background, students whose parents are involved in their schooling are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school.



The most accurate predictors of student achievement in school are not family income or social status, but the extent to which the family creates a home environment that encourages learning, communicates high yet reasonable expectations for the child's achievement, and becomes involved in the child's education at school.



When parents are involved at school, the performance of all the children at school, not just their own, tends to improve. The more comprehensive and well planned the partnership between school and home, the higher the student achievement.

# Complete First Two Sections of KWL

Know K	Want to Know W	What you Learned L
What do you already know works to engage families?	What do you want to learn from this session?	What did you learn with action steps?
• • •	• • •	• •



# Explore Expertise in the Room with Family Engagement Tools

Communication Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• sticker voting</li><li>•</li></ul>
Student Learning on Display	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
Family Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
Other Tools to Connect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>

## Color Code Ideas

**Green Highlight** I want to try!

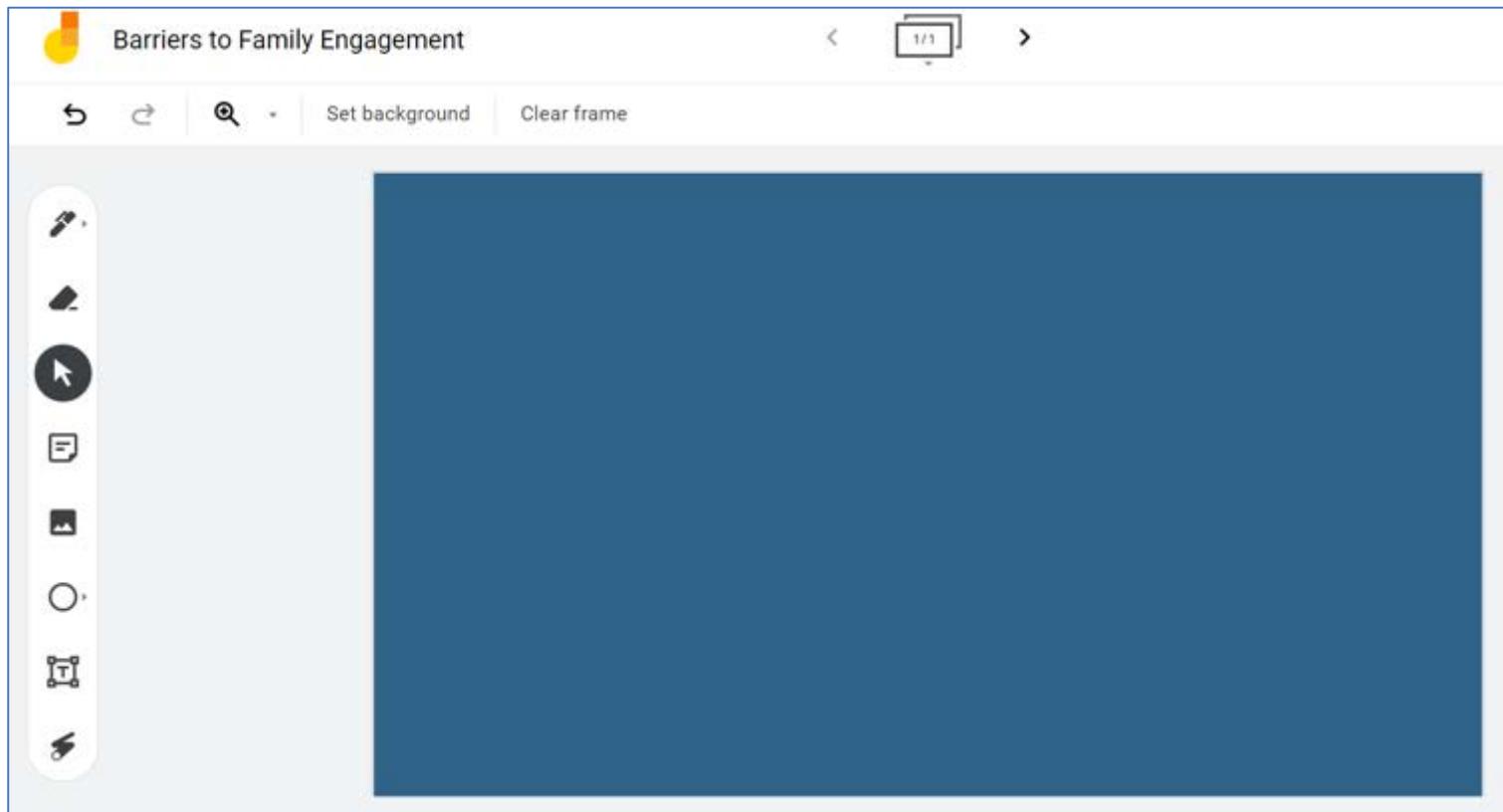
**Yellow Highlight** This might work

**Red Highlight** Not sure this works for my community



# Barriers to Family Engagement

Complete the [Jam Board](#)



# Heart, Mind, and Skill Sets

## Foundation of Empathy



### Heart Set

- Addressing our own biases and judgements
- Unconditional positive regard
- Understanding the impacts of trauma on families and community

### Mind Set

- Strength-based practices
- Approaching families as inherently capable
- Identifying cultural strengths
- Commitment to meet families at their level of need

### Skill Set

- Using culturally responsive & culturally specific tools
- Improving our skills to meet families where they are
- Innovation is key!



# Discuss the Power of Shifting Heart, Mind and Skill Sets

## Reflect on Barriers to Family Engagement



### Heart Set

How do we focus on relationships and building rapport with families and communities?

### Mind Set

How we think about and process information from and about families?

### Skill Set

What tools do we need to connect and create authentic family engagement?



# Skill Set ☰ Build our Toolboxes

OARS Tool – Essential communication skills, family-centered model of interactive strategies.

## **Open-Ended Questions**

- Allow families and community members to share information including their feelings, attitudes, understanding, and expertise

## **Affirmations**

- Recognize and reinforce success
- Positive statements about ideas, strengths, and abilities
- Affirm family/community experience

## **Reflective Listening**

- Mirror and reflect feelings, thoughts, and expertise shared
- Rephrase and check for accuracy

## **Summarizing**

- Highlight most important elements of conversation
- Show listening and check for accuracy



# Skill Set ☰ Build our Toolboxes



## Open-Ended Question Suggestions

- » What are your child's greatest strengths and skills?
- » What works best for your child?
- » What are your fears or concerns?
- » What does family communication mean to you?
- » What ideas do you have?
- » What is your opinion on...
- » Why do you think...
- » How do you feel about...
- » What reasons would you give for... ?
- » How does ... relate to your own experiences and expertise?
- » What examples can you share?
- » Why do you think .... ?
- » How can I help you with ... ?
- » Help me understand ... ?
- » How would you like things to be different?
- » What are the good things about ... and what are the less good things about it?
- » When would you be most likely to ... ?



# Skill Set ☰ Build our Toolboxes



## Affirmative Responses

- » I appreciate your willingness to meet today
- » You are clearly a resourceful person
- » That is a great suggestion because...
- » I enjoyed learning from you today
- » The way you handled that situation inspired me by ...



# Skill Set ☰ Build our Toolboxes



## Reflective Listening

- » So you feel...
- » It sounds like you...
- » You're wondering if...

## Summarizing

- » Let me see if I understand so far...
- » Here is what I've heard.....
- » Tell me if I've missed anything



# **Ways to Become More Culturally Responsive in Engaging American Indian and Alaska Native Families**

**-Mandy Smoker Broaddus**

- » Center cultural responsiveness on youth, families, and elders
- » Make cultural connections across the curriculum
- » Understand the lingering trauma of the boarding school era
- » Make culture visible
- » Facilitate language instruction
- » Make time for introductions
- » Provide a seat at the table



# **Role Play ↗ Step Out of our Comfort Zones to Practice OARS Tool**

## **Volunteers**

- » Educator(s)
- » Family member(s)

## **Other participants will be observers**

- » What went well with role play?
- » Additional suggestions or strategies?

### **Scenario**

Student is struggling with attendance. School Staff has attempted positive phone calls, attendance letters, conference with principal and family refuses to acknowledge or address attendance issue. A family member has come to the office and is very upset.



# The Danielson Framework for Teaching



## MARZANO-9 INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES



# Complete Last Section of KWL

Know K	Want to Know W	What you Learned L
What do you already know works to engage families?	What do you want to learn from this session?	What did you learn with action steps?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Action step</li><li>• Action step</li><li>• Action step</li></ul>



# Implementation Share Out

## Challenge by Choice

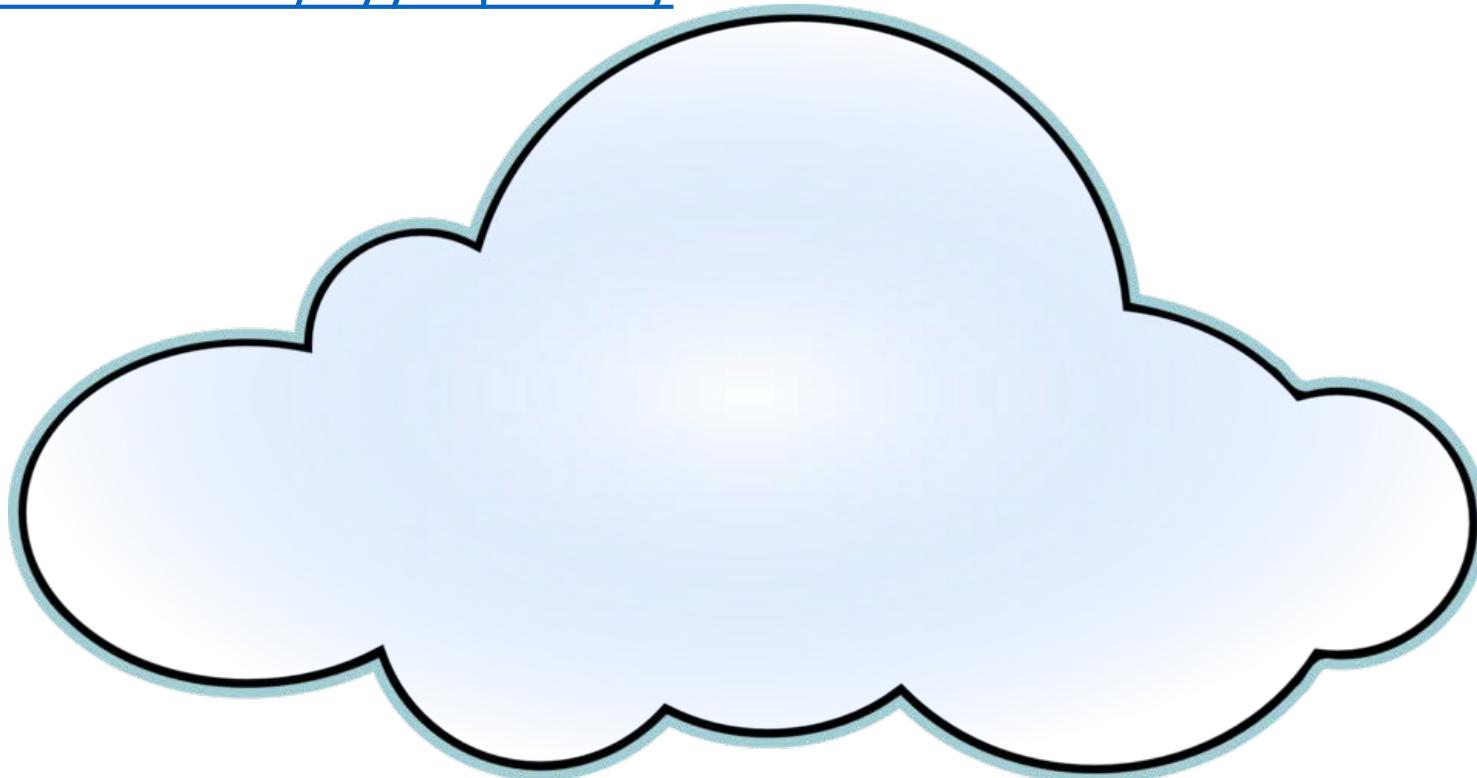
- At least two volunteers share out their learning
- Everyone else, please share your learning in the chat box



# Word Cloud

As you plan how to engage families and community, what words of encouragement would you share?

<https://www.menti.com/nyyadp1mmy>



# Explore Concepts Further

**What Research Says About Parent Involvement** <https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/what-research-says-about-parent-involvement/>

**Ways to Become More Culturally Responsive in Engaging American Indian and Alaska Native Families**  
<https://educationnorthwest.org/northwest-matters/ways-become-more-culturally-responsive-engaging-american-indian-and-alaska-native>

**Assertive Engagement** <https://www.multco.us/assertive-engagement>

**Understanding the Danielson Framework in Special Education**  
<https://www.rethinked.com/blog/blog/2017/07/05/understanding-the-danielson-framework-in-special-education/>

**Motivational Interviewing** <https://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/motivational-interviewing-open-questions-affirmation-reflective-listening-and-summary>



# Contact Us



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