

# Partnering with Families Communicate, Coordinate, and Collaborate

**Sadia Batool**

Early Childhood Family Lead for Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems  
Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)

---

# Introduction

- Parent of a 9-year-old daughter
- Physician by qualification
- Family Leader
- Early Childhood Family Lead for Pennsylvania's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Project



# Policy Statement released by the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services on Family Engagement from the early years to the early grades (2016)

“Family Engagement refers to the systematic inclusion of families in activities and programs that promote children’s development, learning, and wellness, including in the planning, development, and evaluation of such activities, programs, and systems.”

---

# Family Engagement in Pennsylvania



# History of Parent Movement in Pennsylvania



# Guiding Light for Family Engagement in Pennsylvania

## The Pennsylvania Family Engagement Birth through College, Career, Community Ready Framework

A tool to guide the implementation of effective practices, use of shared language, and a family engagement continuum for families across their child's educational lifespan.



## Pennsylvania's Family Engagement Birth through College, Career, Community Ready Framework: A Companion Guide for Families

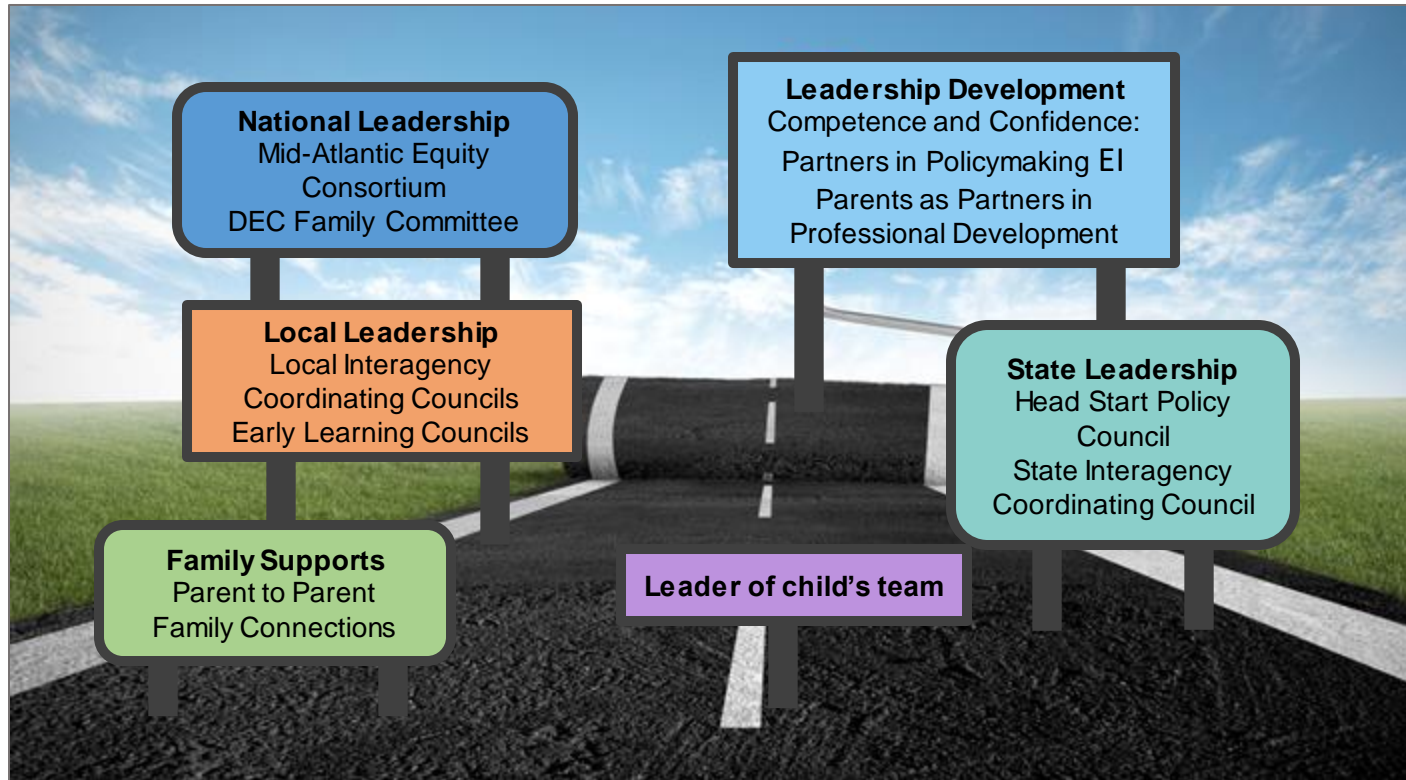


# Family Engagement Definition

- Effective family engagement in the birth through college, career, community ready educational system is **intentional, meaningful, and impactful**.
- Learning Communities **value and support** families in their role as a child's first teacher. It is essential to **leverage the expertise, knowledge, and leadership** of families and community partners to shape the educational environment at the program, classroom, school, state, and national level.
- These partnerships are **strengths based, inclusive, culturally and linguistically responsive, and rely on two-way communications**. They focus on the shared goal of positive learning and developmental outcomes for children.



# Roadmap to Family Leadership





# Parents as Partners in Professional Development (P3D)

2006

- Natural Allies (Parents as Presenters)

2010

- Parents as Partners in Professional Development (P3D)

2021

- P3D/PDO Family Voices

# Parents as Partners in Professional Development (P3D)

- P3D brings together families of children receiving Early Childhood Education (ECE), Early Intervention (EI) and/or Family Support Services (FSS)
- Family members share their experiences to improve training and resources.
- P3D promotes connections between families.
- P3D contact form  
<http://bit.ly/P3Dsignup>



# Pennsylvania Efforts to Build Family Leadership



Competence and  
Confidence: Partners in  
Policy Making for Families  
of Children in Early  
Intervention  
(C2P2 EI)

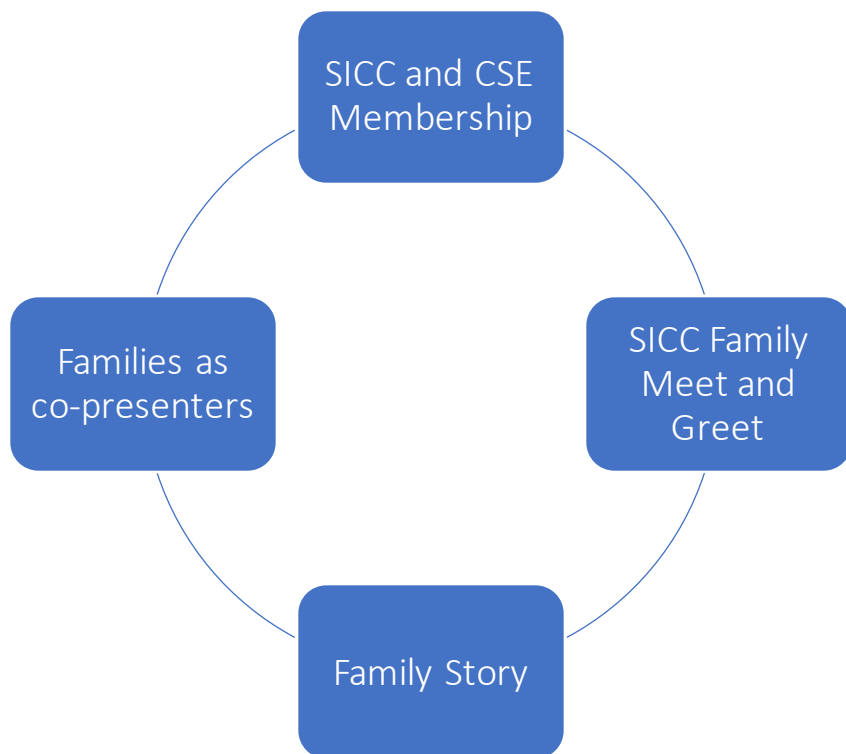


# Pennsylvania State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

Governor appointed council that advises and assists the Departments of Health, Education, and Human Services to ensure that a comprehensive delivery system of integrated Early Intervention programs and services is available to all eligible infants, toddlers, and young children and their families.



# Engaging families at the SICC



**eitg** State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)  
**Family Meet & Greet**  
The Meet & Greet is an opportunity for families to learn more about the SICC

**Meetings are virtual!**

Join us from 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM on the first Thursday of every other month

- Meet, network and share resources with other families
- Learn about the purpose of the SICC and key policy issues discussed at the SICC meeting
- Consider ways to participate in the SICC meeting
- Reimbursement for childcare is available
- The SICC meeting follows the Meet & Greet from 12:30 - 2PM. Participation is optional but welcome.

For information on the next Meet & Greet, please contact Sadia Batool at [c-sabatool@pa.gov](mailto:c-sabatool@pa.gov)

Sign up for P3D, Parents as Partners in Professional Development [P3D Sign-up Form](#)

Stay connected and receive emails about future family engagement opportunities!

# Supports for Family Engagement



COMMITMENT



COMPENSATION



MENTORSHIP



TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE

# Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Health Integration Prenatal to age Three Project

- **Project Goal 1:** Increase in Pennsylvania's state-level infrastructure in order to strengthen statewide systems of care that promote early developmental health and family well-being.
- **Core Objective:** Increase the number of family and professional leaders engaged in state-level maternal and early childhood initiatives, including those leaders who represent underserved populations



# ECES Family Leadership Activities





# Communicate, Coordinate, and Collaborate

*“...No matter how skilled professionals are, nor how loving families are, each cannot achieve alone, what the parties, working hand-in-hand, can accomplish together.”*

(Adapted from Peterson and Cooper as cited in 2007)



# Thank you!

Questions or follow-up information  
can be requested by contacting

Sadia Batool ([c-sabatool@pa.gov](mailto:c-sabatool@pa.gov))

[Home - Early Intervention Technical  
Assistance Portal \(eita-pa.org\)](#)

[ECCS-Prenatal-to-Three-Project \(pa.gov\)](#)

