



2023 OSEP
Leadership and
Project Directors'
Conference

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Crystal Gateway Marriott
Arlington, VA



Partnering with Families Communicate, Coordinate, and Collaborate

Sadia Batool, Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning

Carmen M. Sánchez, Office of Special Education Programs US Dept of Ed

Lisa Parker, Bureau of Early Intervention and Family Supports

Sarah Holland, Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania and Family Engagement

Kris Bowman, Ramsey Educational Development Institute

Toni Miguel, Pennsylvania Early Intervention Technical Assistance

Session Description

This session will present a diverse panel featuring federal, state and local professional leaders who will share their dynamic expertise in building the capacity of families moving into leadership roles at the program, local, state, and national level. We will build the session on the previous family leadership refrain of “Nothing about us without us” to integrate “Nothing about YOU without YOU” that is reflected in the continued commitment and unwavering efforts of early intervention and early childhood special education (EI/ECSE) leaders to ensure family perspective is heard, valued, and influential in decision making. This interactive session will provide a bi-directional learning opportunity between the audience and presenters to explore ideas, tools, and strategies to achieve the crucial combination of supporting families in their roles as parents, leaders and vital partners to systems building for a better and brighter future of our nation’s youngest citizens.

Critical Information

Pennsylvania definition of Family Engagement: 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

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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.

Resources and/or References

- Early Intervention Technical Assistance (n.d.). Early intervention technical assistance portal. <http://www.eita-pa.org/>
- Early Intervention Technical Assistance (n.d.). Parents as partners in professional development (P3D). <https://tiu11.padlet.org/spasq3/parents-as-partners-in-professional-development-p3d-h4vkzzi2tb5x5vfa>
- Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (n.d.). Pennsylvania early childhood comprehensive systems health integration prenatal-to-three project. <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/ECCS-Prenatal-to-Three-Project.aspx>
- Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning & Pennsylvania Department of Education (2019). The Pennsylvania family engagement birth through college, career, community ready framework. <https://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/Federal%20Programs/ParentFamily/Pages/default.aspx>
- Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning & Pennsylvania Department of Education (n.d.). Pennsylvania's family engagement birth through college, career, community ready framework: A companion guide for families. <https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Early%20Learning/Family%20Engagement%20Framework%20-%20Companion%20Guide%20for%20Families%20FINAL.pdf>
- Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning & Temple University College of Education and Human Development Institute on Disabilities. (2023). Competence and confidence: Partners in policymaking early intervention. https://www.eita-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/C2P2-EI-Flyer-23-24-5.22.23_AC.pdf

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