



Family Engagement: It's Everybody's Business

November is Family Engagement Month. The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center ([ECAC](#)) invites you to join us in celebrating the important role families play in their child's education. As research tells us families' involvement in their children's education stands out as one of the greatest predictors of health, development, well-being and academic outcomes. Yet working families' struggle with the formidable balance of juggling work and participating in school activities. Working parents have more frequent absences and feel less productive (Care@Work), Furthermore, families also battle the negative perception they may receive from co-worker when they leave because school demands or the kids get sick. Working parents cite flexible work schedules as a major factor in job retention.

Family Engagement is a shared responsibility between families, school and the community. The business community plays a vital role. Engaging the business community in supporting families not only benefits schools and families but the business community. Better educated children make for a stronger workforce later down the road. Easy strategies to support family involvement can boost employee morale and retention.

You Can Help!

Below are ideas that you can begin implementing right away:

1. Share the link Family Engagement Month link <https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/family-engagement-month-2021/> with employees. This link hosts the family engagement month activity calendars, events and additional resources.
2. Create a virtual workplace hub where families can access information and connect to resources. Organizations like ECAC can provide at no cost electronic resources that families can access from a workplace Website or Facebook page.
3. Invite ECAC or other community organizations to hold free lunch and learn webinars for employees on parenting and educational issues.
4. Provide unpaid or paid leave to families attending school meetings.

Little ideas can grow big dividends. Join with your other business and community partners to make family involvement in education a priority!

About the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC). *ECAC is a private nonprofit parent organization committed to improving the lives and education of ALL children, through a special emphasis on children with disabilities and special healthcare needs. This project helps families /caregivers navigate the special education system and provide families with the information and tools parents need to be an informed and active participant in their child's education! For addition information go to our website at www.ecac-parentcenter.org. Or contact Beverly Roberts, Family Engagement Manager at Broberts@ecacmail.org.*