



Collaborative Action *for* Family Engagement

Learning at Home



Photo by Mary Taylor, Pexels

Happy August! Are you ready for the new school year? Start off strong with MAEC's resources, upcoming events, and recent publications to support your child to succeed at home and at school.

What is CAFE?

Collaborative Action for Family Engagement (CAFE) is a program of MAEC serving

Maryland and Pennsylvania. We engage in high-impact, culturally responsive family engagement. By building partnerships among schools, families, and community organizations, we improve all students' development and academic achievement.

New from CAFE



is pleased to offer



NAFSCE
Reframing Academy

FACILITATED COHORT



Reframing Academy Facilitated Cohort

CAFE is pleased to offer NAFSCE's Reframing Academy at no cost to you. The Academy leads learners through ten virtual modules, which break down problems that stand in the way of communicating effectively about family engagement and provide research-backed strategies one can use to solve those problems and change the way people think about family engagement.

Learners in this cohort will participate in **four meetings** as they complete the virtual course. In the first session, participants will receive a code to access the course and a copy of the course learning journal, and learn information about the development of the course and materials. Between courses, participants will complete specific Academy modules.

Participants in MD and PA who complete all the sessions and course requirements may be eligible for course credit.

The course will be offered via two cohorts:

Cohort 3

Wednesdays, 6-7:30 pm (ET)

August 24

September 7

September 21

October 5

Cohort 4

Thursdays, 9-10:30 am (ET)

August 25

September 8

September 22

October 6

Register for Cohort 3

Register for Cohort 4

Want to share this opportunity? Download the [flyer here!](#)



New Resource Guide to Support AAPI Students

The CAFE team partnered with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) family leaders in 2021 to develop and disseminate a survey to learn about AAPI families' reflections and thoughts on school reopening in fall 2021. The survey, translated into Chinese, Korean, and Urdu, resulted in nearly 500 responses from over 20 states.

CAFE identified five key areas where educators can support AAPI families and students. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Develop culturally responsive support for AAPI students’ social, emotional, and mental wellness.
2. Build capacity to communicate health and safety protocols effectively to AAPI communities.
3. Support students’ academic needs.
4. Train educators on stopping discrimination against AAPI students.
5. Address educational inequities exacerbated by the pandemic.

For a more in-depth analysis of recommendations, [read the full report here.](#)

UPCOMING RESOURCES

The Choice is Yours: A Parent's Guide for School Choice in MD and PA

This resource for families provides information and explanations on different school options and programs. It includes advice and insight that help build families' capacity to make informed decisions regarding their children's education. This publication includes information tailored to middle school students, high school students, English Learners, and students with disabilities. Since current school choice options and processes can exclude students from underserved populations, we aim to make the information presented in the publication as inclusive as possible.

Out this fall!

Resources for Our Families



Photo by. Pixabay, Pexels

Get ready to engage with your students' school! These resources offer strategies to promote effective parent and school engagement as we begin this school year.

Parent Involvement Checklist

Reading Rockets

Use this tool to gauge how well your school is engaging with parents, and review sample best practices, challenges, and results of effective parent engagement.

"Dear Teacher" Letter

Learning Heroes

You can send this template introduction letter to your child's new teacher so that they can best support your child from the very beginning of the school year.

Parents: 19 Meaningful Questions You Should Ask Your Child's Teacher

Edutopia

This article includes questions you can ask your child's teacher to better clarify what's happening in the classroom and identify best practices to support your child's learning at home.

You Are an Advocate!



Photo by Harrison Haines, Pexels

Families are their child's best advocates. The resources below are for families to learn how to navigate school systems and support their child's success.

[How Parents Can Be Advocates for Their Children](#)

Reading Rockets

Parents are often the best educational advocates for their children, especially children with a learning disability. These nine tips can help you be a strong champion for your child.

[Be Your Child's Advocate](#)

Scholastic

What should you do if your child is placed with a teacher who's not a good match? How

do you proceed if you suspect your son has a learning disability? Where do you turn if your daughter is bullied during recess? You become your child's advocate by working with the school to create a solution. We spoke with school principals and other educational leaders to define guidelines for putting your energy, focus, and in-depth knowledge of your own child to its most effective use.

Financial Literacy is a Family Matter!



Photo by Kristina Paukshtite, Pexels

It’s important that children understand the value and importance of money at a young age. Check out these resources on how to share financial literacy with your children:

[**Everyday Activities to Teach Financial Literacy to Kids**](#)
Investopedia.com

Research suggests that many of our financial habits are set by age 7. How do families teach the value of a dollar and other key financial lessons? Here are some basic steps you can take immediately to put your kids on the right path.

[How To Teach Your Kids Good Money Habits](#)

Forbes Advisor

“Without a working knowledge of money, it is extraordinarily difficult to do well in life,” says Sam X Renick, co-creator of Sammy Rabbit, a children’s character and financial literacy initiative. “Money is central to transacting life, day-in and day-out. Where we live, what we eat, the clothes we wear, the car we drive, health care, education, child-rearing, gift giving, vacations, entertainment, heat, air-conditioning, insurance—you name it, money is involved.”

Mindfulness Corner





Photo by Valeria Ushakova,

Pexels

It’s essential as a family to find peace during stressful times. These techniques build on skills to create more serenity in your family life.

5 Mindfulness Activities for Kids

Mindfulness Exercises

Teaching mindfulness can be one of the most valuable gifts a parent can give to their children, because it can help equip them to take life in stride, no matter what it throws their way. Mindfulness helps them to stay in the present moment, be less reactive, and not get carried away with every thought and emotion.

Meditation for Kids: A Beginner's Guide

Parents.com

Meditation can help kids read and respond to internal signals of stress before their developing brains and bodies give in to a full-blown tantrum. The key is intuiting what your child needs to come back into balance and giving them the tools to practice.

Are you on Twitter? Follow us [@CAFE_MAEC](#) for the latest CAFE news!



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