



Collaborative Action *for* Family Engagement

Learning at Home



Photo by Norma Mortenson, Pexels

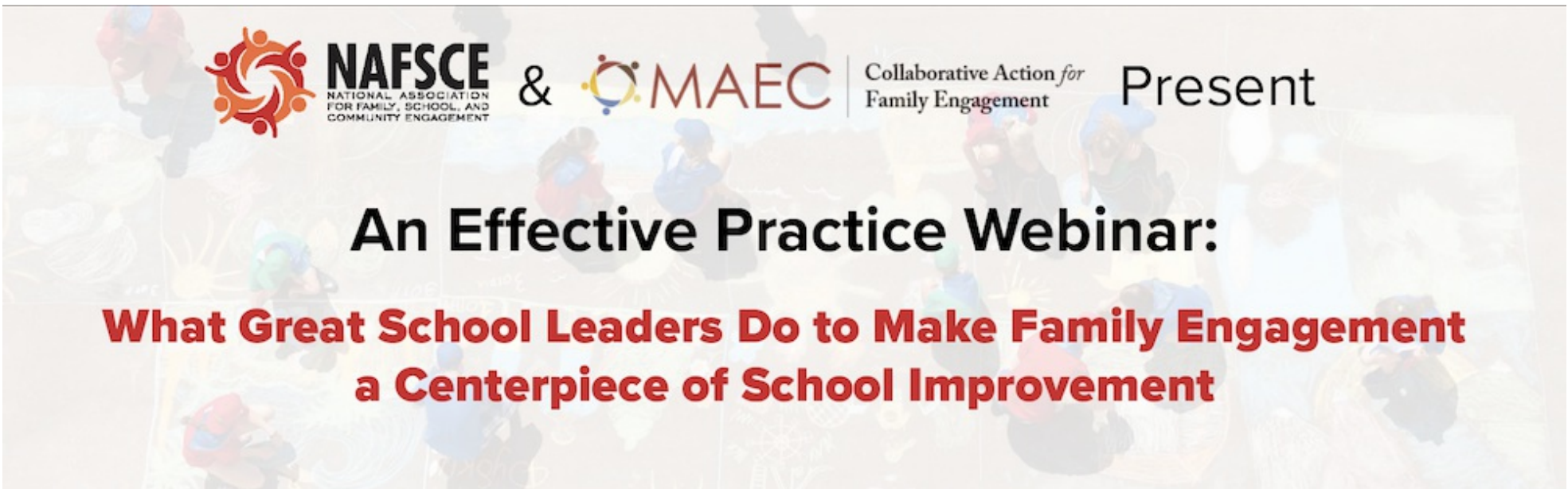
Happy September! This month we welcome fall and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, recognizing the histories, cultures, and contributions of American residents whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. In this newsletter we feature MAEC's resource, *¡Adelante! Moving Forward! A Guide to Empower Parents of English Learners to Advocate for their Children*. Designed as an informational training tool, the guide provides trainers of immigrant parents and parent

leaders with user-friendly and accessible information regarding the legal responsibilities of educational agencies serving ELs and the rights of parents of ELs.

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



What Great School Leaders Do to Make Family Engagement a Centerpiece of School Improvement

Friday, September 30th, at 3 pm (ET)

How does a school encourage a welcoming atmosphere and an excitement for learning? What can you do to create this type of environment at your school? In this webinar, we will introduce you to Dr. Cheryl Franklin, Principal at Robert R. Gray Elementary School, Dr. Sheila Jackson, district leader at Prince George County Public Schools, and other stellar speakers. We will uncover the work behind creating impactful family engagement, explain how it is guided by skilled district and school leadership, and share the benefits of Academic Parent-Teacher Teams. The webinar describes the transformative way teachers and families come together to elevate learning. Join us to learn more about leadership excellence in school improvement. Prepare to be inspired and to lead your own school community.

Register Here

UPCOMING RESOURCE

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. The information is 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.

Check it out in our October newsletter!

Resources for Our Families



Mural by [Joel Burgner](#) in collaboration with children and teens from Central America who are now living in the D.C. area.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated September 15-October 15 to coincide with the

independence days of multiple Latin American Countries. This month, we celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of American residents whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. We also acknowledge the diversity and differences in cultures, traditions, and dialects among those who identify as Hispanic and Latinx.

Check out the following Hispanic Heritage Month resources:

[Happy Latinx Heritage Month from NPR!](#)

National Public Radio

Podcasts reflecting the diversity of the Latinx community.

[Here, Every Month Is Latine Heritage Month](#)

Huffington Post

Huffington Post guest editor, Victoria Leandra, on why Latine voices matter now more than ever.

[Hispanic Heritage Month Resource List](#)

MAEC

MAEC is devoted to serving educators and education professionals and we encourage educators and students to take time to expand their knowledge and awareness of the experiences and histories of Hispanic and Latinx Americans. There are many free resources available to get started, some of which are listed here.

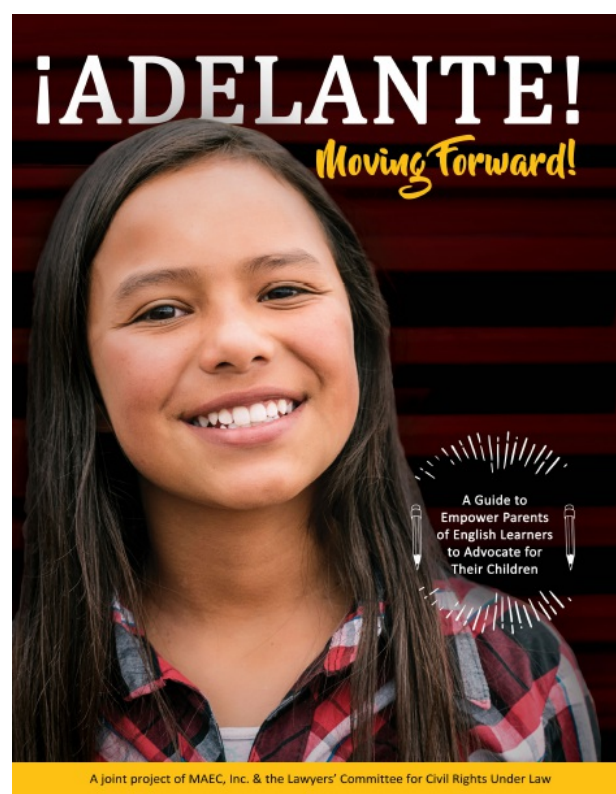
You Are an Advocate!





Photo by Kamaji Ogimo, Pexels

You are your child's best advocate. Need strategies to help you along the way? Check out the resources below.



[iAdelante! Moving Forward!](#)
A Guide to Empower Parents of English Learners to Advocate for their Children
MAEC

In 2010, approximately five million students in the United States were identified as English Learners (ELs). These students have different levels of English proficiency and number of years of formal education. While this growing number of ELs represents a considerable challenge, it is the responsibility of schools to ensure that ELs have equal

access to quality education that enables them to progress academically while learning English.

Currently there is a substantial body of legislation, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which protects the rights of these students. Unfortunately, many parents of ELs are not aware of these laws and therefore cannot advocate for their children. *iAdelante! Moving Forward! A Guide to Empower Parents of English Learners to Advocate for their Children* is designed as an informational training tool to provide trainers of immigrant parents and parent leaders with user-friendly and accessible information regarding the legal responsibilities of educational agencies serving ELs and the rights of parents of ELs.

Also available in Spanish!

Funding from National PTA to Support your PTA - Fall 2022 Program Grants

National Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The National PTA and sponsors are offering over \$600K in funding for PTAs/PTSAs that are in good standing as defined by their state PTA and interested in implementing a fun and engaging National PTA program focused on STEM, literacy, digital citizenship, mental health, healthy lifestyles or the arts. The application process for available program funding will close Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

Making Sure Your Child Gets the Education They Deserve

PTA

Your child has a right to attend and succeed in a great public school. Regardless of income, ethnicity, family circumstances, disability or school readiness, all children are entitled to an education that will help them reach their full academic, professional and personal potential. As a parent or guardian, you are the best advocate for ensuring this happens.

Parent Teacher Planning Tool

Learning Heroes

Use this tool to help you get ready for parent-teacher conferences!

WWC Practice Guide: Preparing Young Children for School

What Works Clearinghouse

Developed with an expert panel, the guide distills contemporary early childhood and preschool education research into 7 practical recommendations and ideas on how to implement them. The recommendations cover math, literacy, and social-emotional and executive function domains. Though designed for educators, the guide includes beneficial information for parents.

8 Ways to Advocate for Your Child's Success

Eight ways you can best support your children at school, playing sports, taking music lessons or any other activity that they participate in.

Financial Literacy is a Family Matter!



Photo by Oleksandr Pidvalnyi, 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:

[**Financial Literacy for Kids: How to Talk about Money as a Family**](#)

National Public Radio (NPR)

Top tips on financial literacy for kids and families from an interview with financial expert

Jen Hemphill.

Teaching Kids About Money: An Age-by-Age Guide

Parents.com

Trips to the bank, store, or the ATM machine can be a perfect opening for a discussion with kids about how you use money. Here are some fun, simple ways to introduce finance to your child.

Mindfulness Corner



Photo by Ketut Subiyanto,

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.

[Easy Ways to Practice Mindfulness With Your Family](#)

PJ Library

Simply put, mindfulness is a way of staying in the *now* by focusing on the present moment. Here are some quick tips and activities to help your family practice mindfulness together.

[How Busy Working Parents Can Make Time for Mindfulness](#)

Harvard Business Review

If you're a busy working parent, how do you build mindfulness — the practice of paying full attention to everything you do — into an already-packed day? Here's how you can get a mindfulness practice started in small, simple ways.

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



MAEC's [Collaborative Action for Family Engagement](#) (CAFE) program is funded by the US Department of Education under Title IV, part E of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).

CAFE is one of twelve statewide family engagement centers.

MAEC is committed to the sharing of information regarding issues of equity in education. The contents of this guide were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the Statewide Family Engagement Centers program. However, the contents of this guide do not necessarily represent the policy or views of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Department of Education or federal government, generally.

[Forward to a Friend](#)

