



# Collaborative Action *for* Family Engagement

## Learning at Home



Photo by August de Richelieu,

Pexels

**November is Family Engagement Month!** Families are children's first and most important teachers, advocates, and nurturers. Decades of research have shown the positive impacts of family engagement on student achievement. This month especially we take our hats off to you, families!

This month's featured event is the first session of *Corner CAFE: An Interstate Community of Practice for Maryland and Pennsylvania* on November 14, 9:30-11 am (ET). In this session we will explore how educators can build family and caregiver capacity around 21st Century Learning Skills and project-based learning to support their children’s education. Read on to register for this session.

***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



**Corner CAFE**

*A Community of Practice for MD and PA family engagement practitioners*

Join us at the **Corner Cafe!** The Corner Cafe is an interstate Community of Practice that brings together practitioners dedicated to bolstering family engagement practices in our districts, schools, and communities in Maryland and Pennsylvania. We will meet monthly over the course of eight months to promote best practices and resources and tackle challenges educators face around family engagement. Our first session is **Next Generation Learning: Supporting 21st Century Skills Outside of School.**

**Next Generation Learning: Supporting 21st Century Skills Outside of School**

*November 14, 2022 9:30-11 am*

In our first session, we will explore how educators can build family and caregiver capacity around 21st century skills and project-based learning to support their children’s education. Why do these skills matter for students? Today’s K-12 students need 21st



century skills to help them succeed in school and tackle real-world problems. Project-based learning is an educational approach that can support the development of 21st century skills while also empowering students to create authentic products.

**Participants will:**

- Receive MAEC’s recent publication, [\*21st Century Learning at Home: A Guide for Families and Caregivers of English Learners to Support Project-Based Learning at Home\*](#), for building family and caregiver capacity around 21st century skills and project-based learning.
- Learn culturally responsive strategies to support families and caregivers in providing authentic learning experiences for their children within their homes and communities that build 21st century skills.

**Upcoming sessions:**

- December 12, 1-2:30 pm
- January 23, 2023, 9:30-11 am
- February 13, 1-2:30 pm
- March 13, 9:30-11 am
- April 17, 1-2:30 pm
- May 8, 9:30-11 am
- June 12, 1-2:30 pm

[Click here to register.](#)

# Interstate Family Engagement Leadership Collaborative



MAEC's Collaborative Action for Family Engagement (CAFE) is seeking **family leaders in MD and PA** for our Interstate Family Engagement Leadership Collaborative. Applications are due **November 11, 2022 (PA) and November 30, 2022 (MD)**.

**Interstate Family Engagement Leadership Collaborative**

*Applications for Pennsylvania due Friday, November 11, 2022*

*Applications for Maryland due Wednesday, November 30, 2022*

Beginning in January 2023, CAFE will launch the next phase of our **Leadership Collaborative** by training three family members from Maryland and three family members from Pennsylvania to serve as Family Leaders on each respective council. Family leaders will serve for a one-year term. Applicants must reside in either Maryland or Pennsylvania to serve as a family leader. Compensation is a \$100 quarterly stipend and reimbursement for mileage for in-person meetings or training.

Family Leaders will commit to an estimated two hours a month through the following activities:

- Attend the scheduled orientation for Family Leaders on December 7 from 10-2 pm (virtually).
- Attend four Interstate Family Engagement Leadership Collaborative Meetings to be held between the larger Council meetings. The purpose will be to plan the state advisory meeting agendas with CAFE staff and partner organizations.
- Facilitate four state advisory meetings with support from CAFE.
- Facilitate one of the three subcommittee groups at each state advisory meeting and report back to the Family Leadership Council on the progress of each subcommittee.

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)



**Unlocking the How: Designing Family Engagement Strategies That Lead to School Success**

Thursday, November 17, 2022 1:00 pm (ET)

The question is not "whether" to do family engagement but "how". How should we elevate family engagement so that it's an engine for equity, and so it makes a real impact on student learning and well-being?

During this interactive webinar, we'll delve into Learning Heroes 2022 parent and educator research, as well as their latest report Unlocking the How, which provides concrete recommendations and best practice examples for building a family engagement strategy that impacts student outcomes. Through the lens of your work,



participants will engage and reflect on the three pillars outlined in the report:

- 1) Placing Trust and Teamwork at the Center of the Home-School Relationship
- 2) Anchoring Family Engagement Strategies in Student Learning and Well-Being
- 3) Investing in Building Systems and Structures That Enable This Work

[Click here to register.](#)

## Resources for Our Families

You Are an Advocate!





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

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### **Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family/school Partnerships (Book)**

*Anne T. Henderson, Karen L Mapp*

Packed with tips from principals and teachers, checklists, and an invaluable resource section, *Beyond the Bake Sale* reveals how to build strong collaborative relationships and offers practical advice for improving interactions between parents and teachers, from insuring that PTA groups are constructive and inclusive to navigating the complex issues surrounding diversity in the classroom. Written with candor, clarity, and humor, *Beyond the Bake Sale* is essential reading for teachers, parents on the front lines in public schools, and administrators and policy makers at all levels.

### **I Have a Question...What Parents and Caregivers Can Ask and Do to Help Children Thrive at School: A Parent Checklist**

*U.S. Department of Education*

While your child's education begins at home, this tool provides you with a set of questions to ask, and important issues to consider when approaching your child's teachers, principals and counselors about his or her development. Also available in Spanish.

### **NABSE Pre Conference Parent Summit**

*National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE)*

On Wednesday, November 30, 2022 from 8 am-5 pm, NABSE presents their Pre Conference Parent Summit in-person at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. The summit features dynamic speakers, including MAEC's Carol Gant, Daryl Williams, and Mariela Puentes, and breakout sessions you're not going to want to miss! Please note that online registration has closed, however on-site registration will be available if capacity is not reached prior to the start of the conference.

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## Financial Literacy is a Family Matter!





Photo by Karolina Grabowska, 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:

**[Parents and Kids and Money](#)**

*TheMint.org*

The Parents section provides tips for mentoring and nurturing children to help them grow their financial responsibility. Some of these tips lay very simple groundwork and can be used before children start grade school.

**[The Ultimate Guide to Teaching Kids About Money](#)**

*FamilyEducation.com*

Teaching kids about money is one of those things that's not always covered in school. As parents, here's how you can help educate children about personal finance and managing money.

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Mindfulness Corner





Photo by Anastasia Shuraeva,

Pexels

It's essential as a family to find peace during stressful times. These techniques build on skills to create more serenity at home.

### **[Kids Meditation: Guided Meditation for Kids](#)** (Online event)

*OnlineMeditationEvents.com*

Sundays 3-3:40 pm (ET). Free, registration required.

Discover how meditation can help your child manage emotions, focus better, lessen everyday stress and anxiety, and even sleep better. We will introduce your child to a simple guided meditation that will help them to overcome challenges and become truly happy, self-confident, and compassionate individuals.

### **[18 Mindfulness Games, Worksheets and Activities for Kids](#)**

*PositivePsychology.com*

This article contains a plethora of resources such as apps, books, quotes, worksheets, meditation scripts and more all related to teaching mindfulness to children and teens.

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