

# Promoting Family Engagement



Teams that support youth in residential environments can use the guidance below to identify strategies and supports to engage the families of the youth in both the residential and school settings.

Youth Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member Name	Relationship to Youth	How Do They Wish To Be Addressed

Engagement Element	Plan for this Family
<p><b>Effective Communication.</b></p> <p><i>Communication is key!</i></p> <p>What is the communication plan for this family?</p> <p>Consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the most effective form(s) of communication for this family? Consider accessibility issues (reading, writing, etc.) of parent/guardian.</li> <li>• How often does this family wish to be contacted?</li> <li>• Family's preferred language.</li> <li>• What is the family's comfort/ experience with technology and/or access to technology?</li> <li>• Who will be the point of contact? Which team members will be the primary communicators to the family? From the ICF? From the school?</li> <li>• How will the family contact the ICF and school with questions?</li> <li>• How/when will the family provide information to the ICF and school team?</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Supporting Priorities and Strengths.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is important to this family? Consider the culture and values of the family.</li><li>• How will these be respected and supported?</li><li>• What are the strengths and interests of this family that the team can use to further family engagement?</li></ul>	
<p><b>Addressing Fears and Showing Compassion.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the family's concerns or fears related to their child's residential placement and educational program?</li><li>• How will the ICF and school teams engage in this conversation with the family to learn more and ensure they are addressed?</li><li>• What are sensitive topics or issues for this family that the team needs to respect and address carefully? How will the ICF and school teams prepare for these interactions?</li></ul>	
<p><b>Promoting Education Priorities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What has the family shared about their priorities for their child in the education process?</li><li>• How can these be incorporated into short- and long-term education goal?</li></ul>	

<p><b>Inclusive Decision-making.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some decisions require family consent, but there are many other daily decisions made with or for the youth.</li><li>• Which of those daily decisions are important to this family that they have input on? Example: Clothing, meals and snacks, academic assignments, bedtime routines, etc.</li><li>• How will the family's input be gathered?</li><li>• How will the family be provided with updates or progress on daily decisions?</li></ul>	
<p><b>Providing Resources.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What additional resources does this family need to improve or enhance their engagement with the residential and school teams?</li></ul>	
<p><b>Other:</b></p>	