The Connecticut Family School Partnerships (CFSP) brings together the expertise and resources of five diverse educational and family advocacy agencies committed to developing a Connecticut family engagement model that creates a culture of full, equal and equitable partnerships between families, educators, and community partners to elevate student success. The CFSP Partners include: the African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP), Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC), Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), Connecticut State Department of Education CSDE), and the State Education Resource Center (SERC).

The goal, to improve student social, emotional and academic outcomes through strong family, school and community partnerships. This will be accomplished by building the capacity of schools and community agencies through professional development to use high-impact evidence based strategies and practice, building the capacity of families through direct service and leadership opportunities, promoting shared leadership (dual-capacity) between families and schools and developing a comprehensive web-base, Family Engagement HUB for resources and information.

SERVICES OVERVIEW

- Distance Learning (teachers and parents)
- Financial Literacy (Adult Education)
- Social Justice & Equity (school systems)
- Resources in English & Spanish
- Parent Leadership Training & Capacity
- Family Engagement Capacity/Districts & Schools
- Community Networking/Communities of Practice

ISSUES ADDRESSED

- Preschool 3–5
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- English Language Learners
- Children with Special Needs

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CT Friday CAFÉ networking sessions for people who work at the intersection of families and learning. Monthly sessions gathering feature short talk and thought-provoking conversations. A networking opportunity for families, family resource specialist, school staff, community providers and key state leaders. www.fridaycafe.org

A Parent Teacher Survey that was developed by State Department of Education, Cross Sector Research, National Network of Partnership Schools and Family Engagement Directors to gather information from families and classroom teachers when the COVID Pandemic closed schools in Connecticut.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Connecticut’s Definition and Framework for Family Engagement.

Family Engagement is full, equal and equitable partnership among families, educators, and community partners to promote children's learning and development from birth through college and career.

The Guiding Principles:

- Build collaborative, trusting relationships focused on learning.
- Listen to what families say about their children’s interests and challenges.
- Model high quality learning practices.
- Share information frequently with families.
- Talk with students about how they want teachers and families to support their learning.
- Co-develop cultural competence among families and staff.
- Support parents to become effective leaders and advocates for their children.

The definition and framework are the foundation for CT Family School Partnerships, Network for Education. The definition and framework was co-constructed by families, school staff and key stakeholders in Connecticut.

MAKING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Five School Districts in Connecticut signed Memorandums of Agreement to participate in comprehensive family engagement professional development through the National Network of Partnership Model. The agreement designates a ½ position at the district level to lead and coordinate policy and practice district wide. Family Engagement Directors meet monthly in a community of practice. The goal to build capacity of school staff and families by establishing school level action teams and ongoing support.

WEBSITE FOR FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY:

www.ct-fsp.org