Vision/Mission: Building educator-family partnerships to support student well-being and achievement in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

SERVICES OVERVIEW

- Parent/Family Training
- Teacher/Administrator Training & PD
- Conference
- Tip Sheets/Printed Materials
- Learning Packets/Books
- Webinars
- Newsletter
- Wireless hotspots

ISSUES ADDRESSED

- Family Literacy/Early Literacy
- Financial Literacy
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
- Distance Learning
- Social Justice/Equity/Cultural Responsiveness
- Safety
- Basic needs services/referrals (e.g. Food, Clothing, Shelter, Health Care)
- Mental health, social-emotional resource
- Access to technology – laptops, tablets, printers, etc.
- Access to high-speed internet
- Resources provided in languages other than English
- Family/Parent leadership
- Family engagement capacity building

SPECIFIC RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR

- Birth-to-Three
- Preschool/3-to-5
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- Post-Secondary
- English Learners
- Children with Special Needs
- Rural Communities

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Family Room series are weekly facilitated virtual educational workshops aimed at helping families connect and share strategies with each other, and break down feelings of isolation due to COVID-19. In workshops, families engaged with community partners, a child psychologist, museum educators, health experts, scientists, early childhood educators, and educational experts. https://maec.org/resource/family-room-webinar-series/

Queen Anne’s County Public Schools (MD) National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) Family Literacy Program (Rural): MAEC and NCFL partner with Sudlersville Elementary School to implement two-generational literacy programs for low-income families, predominantly immigrants and English learners, in Queen Anne’s County, MD. This program expands parents’ roles in their children’s education, connects families with free WiFi, and supports positive community relationships.

Parents as Teachers (PAT), PA: Through the provision of mini-grants, CAFE is supporting seven PA PAT sites with expanding their services to reach more families and provide training to staff members. Services include hosting a workshop series for families at each site and conducting a Community of Practice for leaders of PAT affiliates focused on improving their knowledge and skills in equitable, culturally responsive practices.
MAKING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Supporting the Development of the MD and PA Family Engagement Frameworks: CAFE and its partners worked closely with Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) staff to extend the work that they did on developing their respective state family engagement frameworks, a continuation of the family engagement framework consortium sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). MAEC staff have developed resources aligned with the family engagement frameworks in order to provide stakeholders with more information and guiding support on how to use the frameworks.

Pre-service Consortium on Family Engagement: CAFE is a member of a national Preservice Consortium on Family Engagement, along with several other SFECs and higher education partners, to develop a framework for institutes of higher education to better prepare educators to engage families in education. CAFE is working in collaboration with MSDE and Bowie State University (BSU) to review the BSU elementary educator preparation program and recommend ways to expand and deepen its family engagement work.

TOP WEB RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES:

- **Learning at Home Newsletter**: CAFE and Turning the Page distributed weekly newsletters, including curated resources on how families can educate children at home, enjoy “out-of-school" time, cope with virtual learning, and plan for the next school year. https://maec.org/covid-19/newsletter/

- **How Do We Talk To Kids About Race and Racism**: During this webinar, guest panelists discussed the alarming events of Summer 2020 that raised a critical question for parents: how do we talk to kids about race and racism? https://maec.org/webinar/familyroom-race-and-racism/

- **The Family Table**: School Reopenings, a three-part webinar series, helped families navigate school reopening considerations during the COVID-19 pandemic and gain information, tools, and strategies to meet their children's ongoing educational goals. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6415901645274/WN_tV4Fk2laQRaEpCb98Mj2Fw]

TOP WEB RESOURCES FOR PRACTITIONERS:

- **An Effective Practices Webinar Series: Trauma-Informed Family and Community Engagement**: In this three-part webinar series co-hosted by CAFE and NAFSCE, we explored trauma and the protective factors that help build resilience and counteract the adverse effects of trauma. We also saw how communities, schools, organizations and individuals around the country are using a trauma-informed lens to guide their work. Part 1, Part 2, Part 3

- **Parent Leadership CoP**: In partnership with the Maryland and Pennsylvania Advisory Councils, CAFE has organized a Parent Leadership Community of Practice (CoP) that meets monthly to develop a Parent Leadership Guide.

- **Introduction to Culture and Equity: Working with Families and Home Visiting**: This training focuses on knowledge and skills of culturally appropriate practice settings for practitioners within a multicultural context and encourages participants to explore the meaning of culture and diversity, its influence on “self” and “other,” and the influence of culture on teaching and learning issues.

- **Tip Sheets on Family Engagement and COVID**: CAFE and the MSDE have developed Family Engagement Tip Sheets aligned with Maryland's Birth-21 Family Engagement Framework's five guiding principles to support educators during recovery and reopening.