

IEL National Family Engagement Conference – June 23, 2017

PaTTAN's Enhancing Family Engagement Series: Facilitating Professional Development through Online Learning

Presenter

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Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

PaTTAN's Mission

The mission of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) is to support the efforts and initiatives of the Bureau of Special Education, and to build the capacity of local educational agencies to serve students who receive special education services.

PDE's Commitment to Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Our goal for each child is to ensure Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams begin with the general education setting with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services before considering a more restrictive environment.

Learning Objectives



Discuss legislation
and research behind
family-school
partnerships

Introduce the
PaTTAN Family
Engagement Initiative

Review the evolution
of the EFE Modules
into an online
learning opportunity

Explore aspects of
the EFE online
learning modules

Who Am I?

- Educational Consultant with PaTTAN Pittsburgh
- Doctoral Student in Special Education at University of Pittsburgh
- Supervisor of Special Education
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Music Teacher/Therapist
- Mother of three great boys!



Opening Activity: Kahoot It!

- Access this hyperlink
<https://play.kahoot.it/#/k/5f6d4921-3032-46e5-8bbc-ddf78ccade69>
- OR go to kahoot.it and enter the Game Pin
- Answer the questions
- Have fun!



Introducing PaTTAN's Family Engagement Initiative



Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

Why Family Engagement?



“At the end of the day,
the most overwhelming
key to a child’s success is
the positive involvement
of parents.”

Jane D. Hull, former governor of Arizona

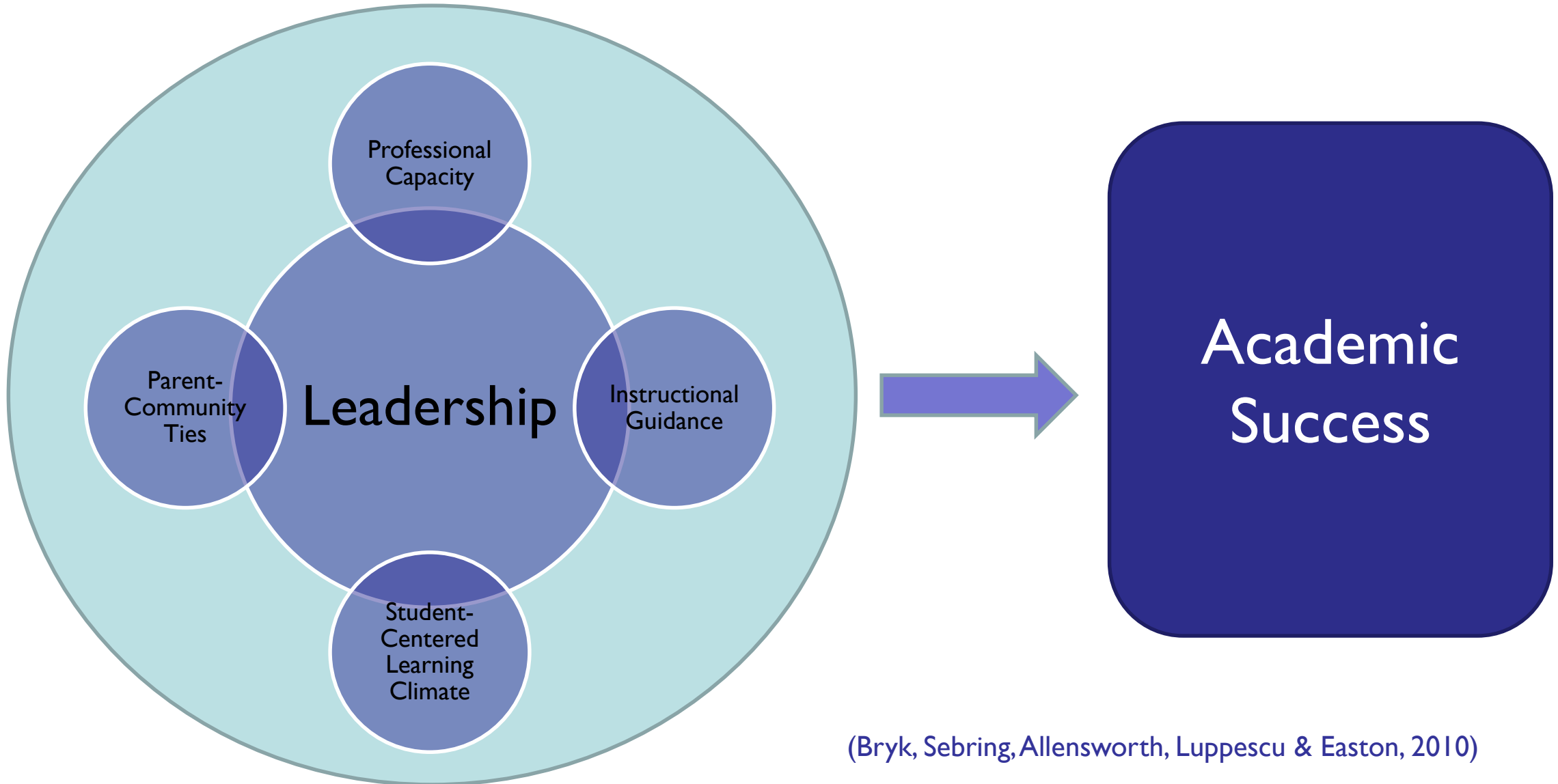
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- Develop with parents a written parent and family engagement policy
- Build schools' capacity to engage families
- Evaluate its family engagement policy and practices, with meaningful input from families
- Involve families in the activities of Title I schools
- Reserve **at least** 1% of its grant to fund parent and family engagement activities; involve parents in deciding how to use these funds; and send 90% of this funding directly to schools

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- Parents have the right to...
 - Receive a complete explanation of procedural safeguards
 - Confidentiality and inspection of records
 - Participate in meetings
 - Obtain an independent evaluation
 - Receive “prior written notice”
 - Give or deny consent
 - Disagree with decisions
 - Use IDEA’s mechanisms for resolving disputes
 - Receive training in order to best assist their children

Family Engagement Research: Lessons from Chicago



(Bryk, Sebring, Allensworth, Luppescu & Easton, 2010)

Benefits of Family-School Partnerships

Reduced drop-out rates and higher graduation rates

(Bridgeland, Dilulio, & Morison, 2006)

Increased student achievement

(Hill & Tyson, 2009)

Reduced absenteeism

(Sheldon & Epstein, 2007)

Better attitudes towards learning

(Fantuzzo, McWayne, Perry, & Childs, 2004)

Fewer behavioral problems

(Caspé & Lopez, 2006)

Better student-teacher relationships

(Dearing, Kreider, & Weiss, 2008)

Improved trust in schools

(Payne & Kaba, 2001)

Increased cultural competence

(Marschall, 2006)

Why Professional Development for Family Engagement?

Most schools recognize the importance of family engagement but don't always know how to do it

Staff members are not always in tune with the diversities within their districts

Educators may not be aware of the research behind family engagement

Staff members may see family engagement as an impossible task and need functional tips on how to begin the engagement process

Projects of the Family Engagement Initiative

<http://www.pattan.net>



The screenshot shows the PaTTAN Family Engagement Initiative website. The header includes the Pennsylvania Department of Education logo, a search bar, and navigation links. The main content area features a 'Family Engagement' section with a sub-header 'Engaging Families to Support Student Success' and a paragraph about the initiative's goals. A sidebar on the right lists various resources and webinars.

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Bureau of Special Education
Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

Welcome Login or Register Need Help? Contact Us

Search for...

Training Educational Initiatives Projects Videos Resources Legal About

Home > Educational Initiatives > Family Engagement

Family Engagement

Engaging Families to Support Student Success

When schools implement intentional and intensive family engagement strategies, there is a significant rise in student achievement scores (Redding, et al., 2004). PaTTAN, in partnership with the Bureau of Special Education, provides training and technical assistance to local education agencies (LEAs) in planning for continuous improvement and effective family engagement.



Pages in this Section
19 Page(s) in this Section | Hide

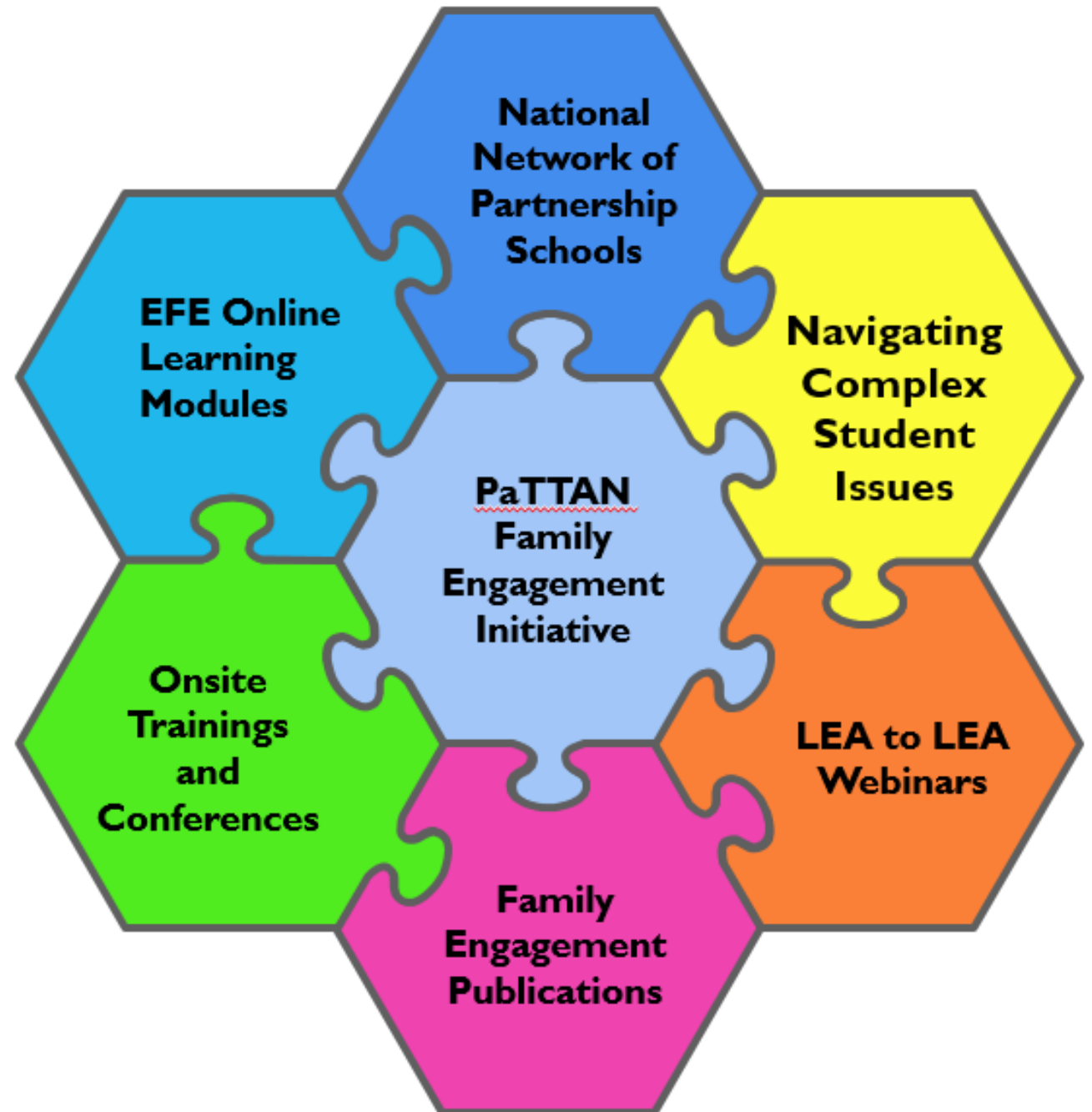
Special Education Performance Grant
2016-2017 Special Education Performance Grants

Family Engagement Webinars
LEA to LEA Webinar Series: Family Engagement 2016-2017
LEA to LEA Webinar Series: Family Engagement 2015-2016
LEA to LEA Webinar Series: Family Engagement 2014-2015
LEA to LEA Webinar Series: Family Engagement 2013-2014
LEA to LEA Webinar Series: Family Engagement 2012-2013
Talking with Parents of Students with Disabilities Webinar Series
Building the Capacity for Effective Family-School Partnerships

Information on Indicator 8: Facilitated Parent Involvement
Indicator 8: School Facilitated Parent Involvement
Enhancing Parent Engagement: A Practical Guide
PaTTAN Resources to Enhance Family Engagement

Family Engagement and Secondary Transition
Family Engagement for Secondary Transition

Webinar Series: U.S. Department of Education's Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC)
Achieving Excellence and Innovation in Family, School, and Community Engagement webinar series, funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education's Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) program, is an opportunity for stakeholders representing



Think-Pair-Share: What Do You Do?

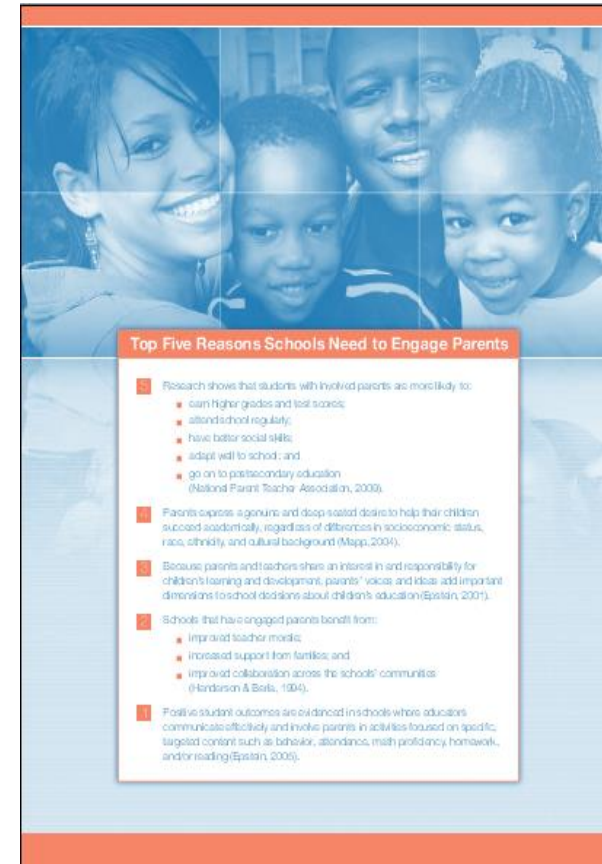
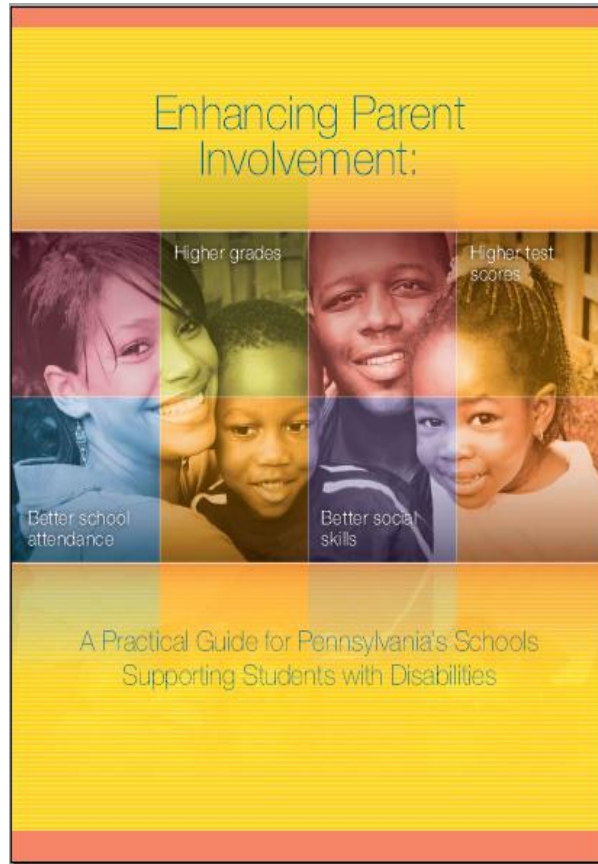
- What types of trainings does your locality/state provide to teachers as professional development?
- What activities are/might be successful for teacher-training in the area of family engagement?



Enhancing Family Engagement Modules: The Journey to Online Learning



Parent Engagement Publications



National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



A Framework to
Guide Family
Engagement Work
in Pennsylvania

[PTA.org/excellence](https://pta.org/excellence)

What Are the EFE Modules?



Module 1: Welcoming All Families into the School Community



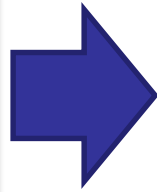
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Six PD modules
with different
areas of focus
based on the PTA
National Standards

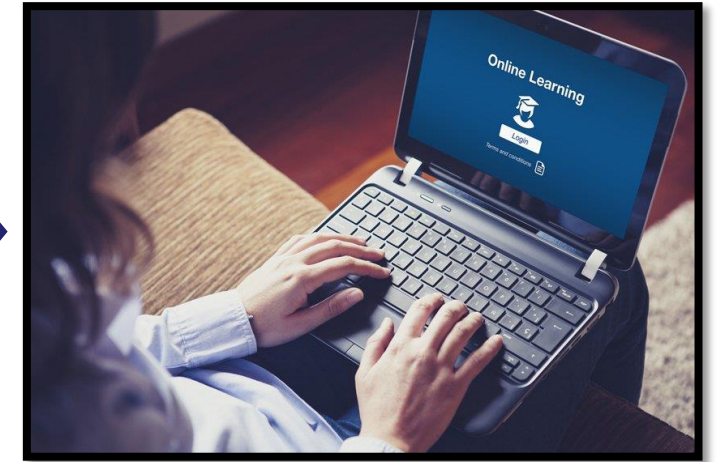
Evolution of the EFE Modules



Began as CDs disseminated
to all LEAs in Pennsylvania



Recreated into a live
training with
PaTTAN supports
(Trained 45 LEAs
2011-2015)



Now available as an online
learning experience

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

Free

Widely
available

Geared
towards
lifelong learning

Content driven

Teacher's
represent 28%
enrollment

Many enroll,
few finish

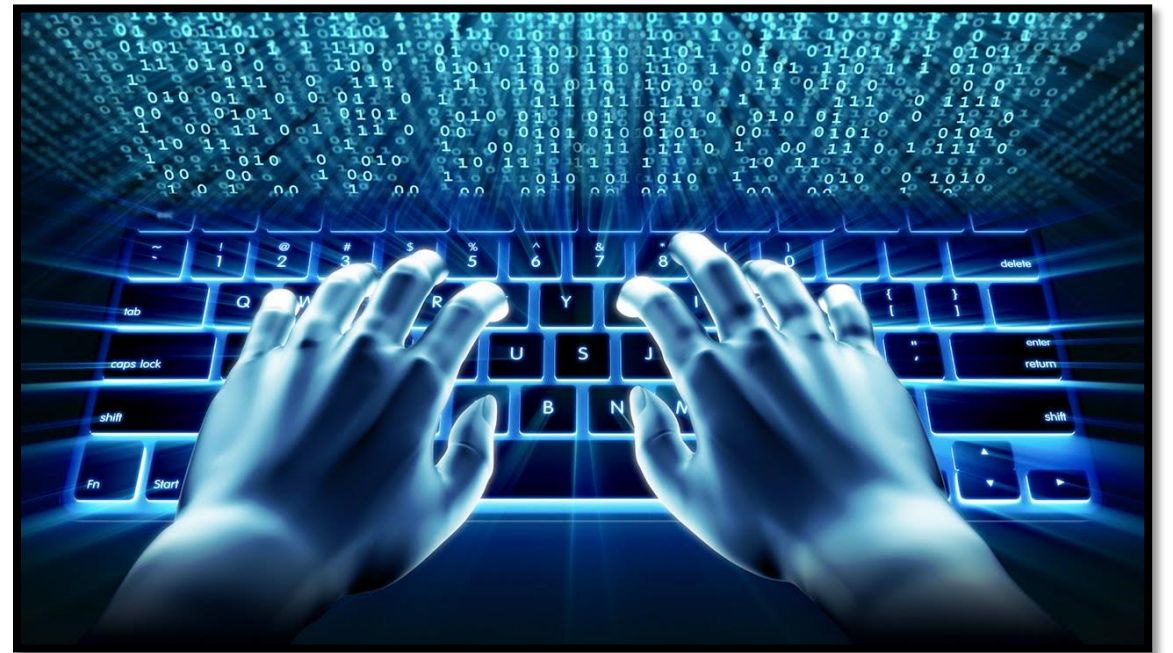
Limitations to Online PD for Educators



- Online PD may not directly relate to specific strengths and needs of the educator's students/families
- Learning in isolation may be less effective than learning in interactive groups
- Individual learning of one teacher may have less of an impact on student learning than educators' collective growth
- It is difficult to measure how well an educator applies their online learning to the benefit of students

Advantages of Online PD for Educators

- Teachers can study, reflect upon, and practice what they've learned in order to increase student learning
- Educators are able to access a wide-range of topics without high costs of education
- Individuals complete learning on a flexible schedule
- Schools can incorporate online learning modules into their school-wide PD



Development of EFE Into Online Learning Courses

Increased accessibility of course onto public online course platform

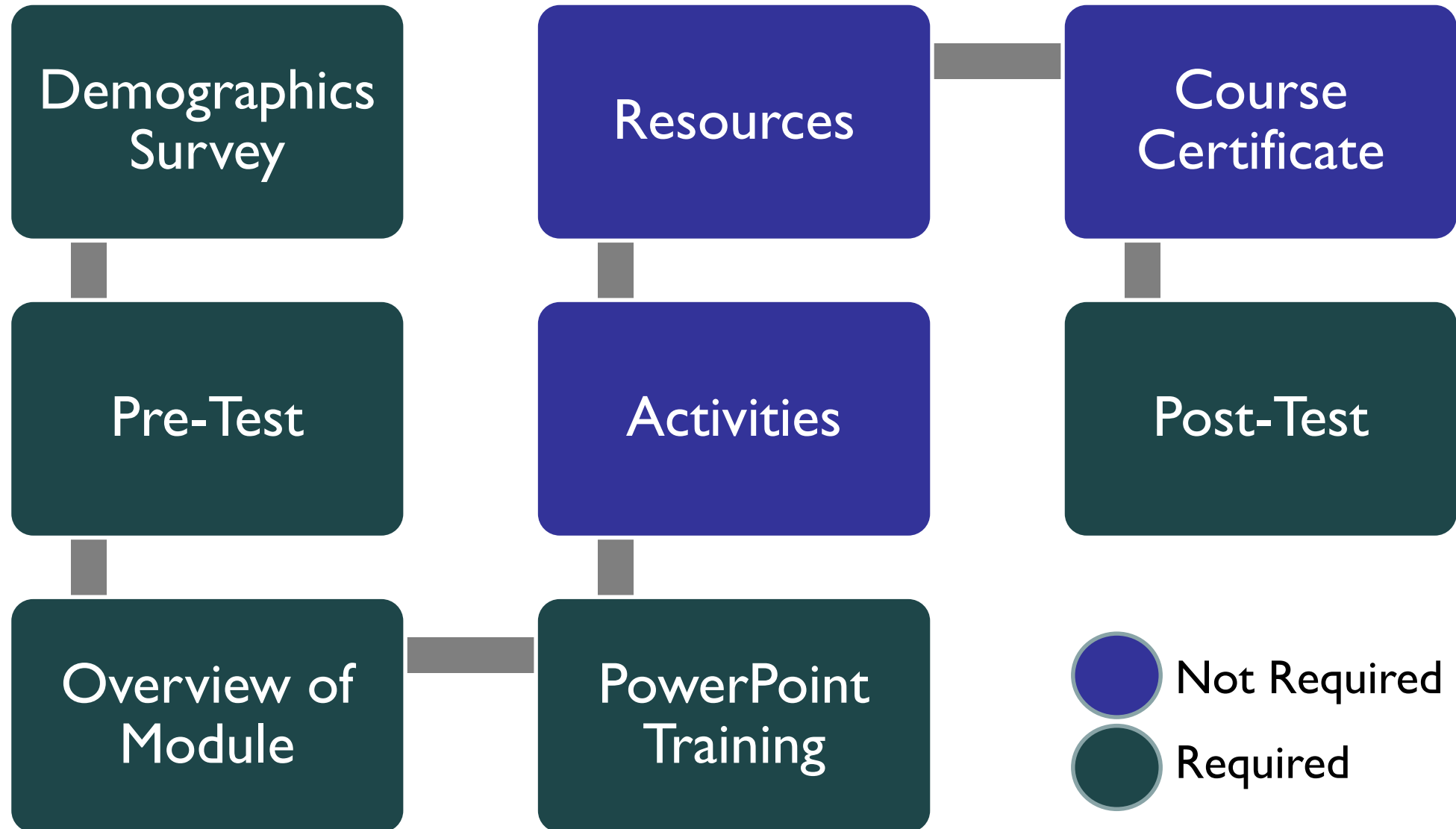
Addition of demographics section to track who is taking courses

Addition of pre- and post-tests to determine efficacy of learning


Development of multiple iterations of the PowerPoint to increase flexibility

Conversion of Activities Sheets into fillable forms for ease of use

Elements of Online Modules





Exploring the Modules

 **Module 3: Pre-Test** REQUIRED

This pre-test is to be completed prior to completion of the Module 3 Training Components. The purpose of the Module 3 Pre-Test is to determine what knowledge participants have going into the learning of this module and compare the results to the knowledge demonstrated after completion of the module. This data will be used in the construction of future Family Engagement Modules.


Open


 **Module 3: Overview** REQUIRED



The purpose of Module 3, "Supporting Student Success", is to discuss the importance of linking family engagement to learning. This module consists of a PowerPoint, five activities, and a list of supporting articles and resources that may be used for further exploration of this topic. The overview document describes training module components, the time required for each section, and the activities and materials that accompany the slides.

Open

 **Module 3: PowerPoint Training** REQUIRED



The purpose of Module 3, Supporting Student Success, is to assist school staff and families in maximizing the academic achievement of all students.

The objectives of this PowerPoint are as follows:

- Discuss the impact of family engagement on student achievement based on presented research
- Discuss the elements of teacher-family partnerships and how to develop collaborative relationships
- Explore strategies to increase family members' participation in a collaborative effort to increase student achievement
- Develop a vision statement and identify action steps that intentionally engage families to support student success

Open

Links to Modules can be found at www.pattan.net under the Family Engagement Initiative. [Hyperlink to Family Engagement Initiative.](#)

PowerPoint Options

Module 4: Speaking Up for Every Child - Narrated PowerPoint (Entire)



Module 4 PowerPoint, Narrated

File size: 81 MB

Module 4: Speaking Up for every Child - Narrated PowerPoint (Sections)



Module 4 PowerPoint, Section I (Introduction and Speaking Up for Every Child)

File size: 21 MB



Module 4 PowerPoint, Section II (School Advocacy and Family Advocacy)

File size: 42 MB



Module 4 PowerPoint, Section III (Family Efficacy and Student Self-Advocacy)

File size: 19 MB

Content Learning: The Core PowerPoint

- Primary training tool for content
- Narration and robust trainer notes provided
- A focus on pertinent research and essential concepts



Module 4: Speaking Up For Every Child



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Activities To Enhance Current Practices

Module 3: Activities


Activity 3.1: Scavenger Hunt

The purpose of this activity is to explore the information available to families, where this information is located, and the quality of the information. Participants will use resources such as the school handbook and the school webpage to locate and assess available information.

 **Activity 3.1: Scavenger Hunt**
File size: 71 KB


Activity 3.2: Six Types of Involvement

The purpose of this activity is to develop an awareness of the practices currently implemented within your school/district addressing the six types of family involvement, and then to consider possible ways in which to enhance the practices in an effort to increase student achievement.

 **Activity 3.2: Six Types of Involvement**
File size: 98 KB

Activity 3.3: Connecting with Families Carousel

The purpose of this activity is investigate, through an active exchange of viewpoints, how connecting with families can support success both at home and in the school community. Participants will answer a variety of questions regarding the ways in which schools can maximize student achievement by helping families support student success and participate in discussion around these topics.

 **Activity 3.3: Connecting with Families**
File size: 38 KB

- Participants reflect on current practice, examine procedures, and/or deepen understanding of presented concepts
- Activities can be completed by individuals OR with groups
- All accompanying materials are provided (i.e., journal articles, worksheets)

Sample Activity 1: What If?

- Take a moment to consider yourself as a family member of a student
- Now think about the family members within your LEA
- Read the “What If” scenario and determine your likelihood of attending the described event and how the event could be changed to increase your attendance

Module 4: Speaking Up for Every Child
Activity 4.1

What If...

There is an event at your children's school this evening. You would like to attend. You love your children and want them to do well in school and you care about their education. However, what if your situation is complicated? Try to picture yourself in the below situations and imagine what it feels like for families dealing with these circumstances.

What if...	How likely would you be to attend the event?	How could this event be adapted to increase the likelihood of your attendance?
1. You have three young children, no child care, and no family support.		
2. You don't have a car and live a long distance from the bus stop.		
3. You don't speak English and know, from experience, that there will not be a translator at this event.		
4. You live in a dangerous neighborhood and do not like to take your children out at night.		
5. You have been ignored or treated rudely by school personnel.		
6. You live in a culture where your husband expects you to be at home in the evening.		
7. You had bad experiences in school and do not wish to relive those memories.		
8. You blame yourself for your child's difficulties in school.		
9. You have to work evenings, which is when all school events are held.		
10. You do not speak like, look like, or dress like other families at the school and have been made to feel "left out."		

Adapted from Henderson, Mapp, Johnson, and Davies, 2007.

Version 3: 2015

Sample Activity 2: Look Around



- Watch the hyperlinked video and consider the family engagement strategies of “Utopia School District”
- How could these strategies be adapted for use in your own district

“Family engagement is not a single event. It is a shared responsibility in which regular two-way communication insures that the student is on track to meet grade-level requirements.”

Heather Weiss

Harvard Graduate School of Education

“As teachers and school leaders, we have a responsibility to shake out the notion of what traditional parent engagement looks like. We need to be creative and persistent.”

ALLISON RODMAN

“If we take the time to care about people, we can transform whole communities. You never know how you can change someone’s life by showing him or her that you care.”

hema Ellis



“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.”
- Jane D. Hull

“There is no doubt that when family engagement is developed in true partnership, it has the ability to positively impact students’ academic, social and emotional growth, even within distressed communities.”

--Kelli Cedo, Virginia Beach Public Schools

 SCHOLASTIC
open a world of possible

“Robust family engagement in schools positively affects student growth, improves test scores, and enhances the overall vibrancy and success of a school.”

Jessica Lander, Ed.M.'15
Harvard Graduate School of Education

I think America needs to know that the principals and teachers are in this together, that the parents need to be a vital part of our team, and that we can all work together to collaborate and do what's best for children.

Elementary School Principal, Pennsylvania

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Wolf, Governor