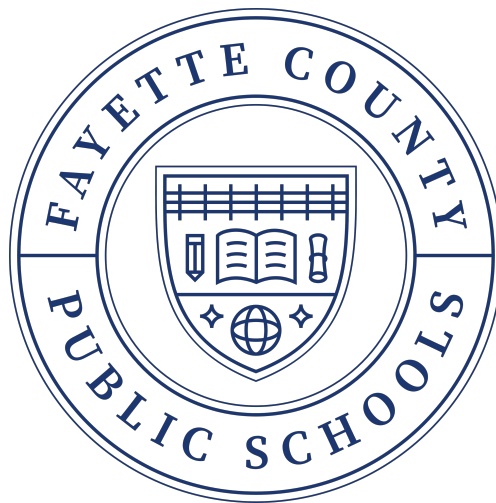




College Awareness in Action: Access and Opportunity

Renita Wilburn & Whitney Young
District Family and Community Engagement Liaison



Co-Presenters



Renita Wilburn

District Family and Community Engagement Liaison
Fayette County Public Schools



Whitney Young

District Family and Community Engagement Liaison
Fayette County Public Schools



Our Goals for Today

- Increased awareness of postsecondary opportunities and empower students and families.
- Improved readiness for postsecondary education through target resources and community partnerships that support equitable pathways to success.
- Enhanced family engagement in the postsecondary planning process by reducing barriers to accessing early postsecondary opportunities.



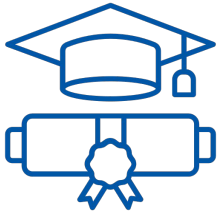
Community Agreements



- Be present
- Assume best Intentions
- It's ok to ask questions
- Share space and time



Strategic Priorities



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Improve student achievement through rigorous curriculum and instruction providing students with evidence-based educational experiences that not only engage but also excite, prepare, and support students.



UNITY, BELONGING, AND STUDENT EFFICACY

Foster and instill a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging across the district and address opportunity gaps.



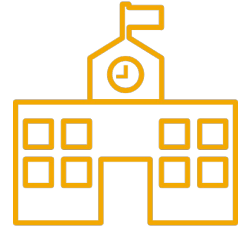
HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE WORKFORCE

Hire, support, and retain a highly effective, culturally responsive and diverse workforce.



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Effectively engage students, employees, families, and community members to improve opportunities and outcomes for all students.



ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH AND EFFECTIVENESS

Foster a culture of continuous improvement to maximize organizational effectiveness and efficiency, support the well-being of our team members, and provide formal recognition of their efforts.



Portrait of a Graduate



**CIVICALLY
ENGAGED AND
CULTURALLY
COMPETENT**



**REFLECTIVE
AND RESILIENT**



**FUTURE AND
LIFE READY**



**LIFELONG
LEARNER**

BY THE
NUMBERS

41%

White

5%

Asian

22%

Hispanic

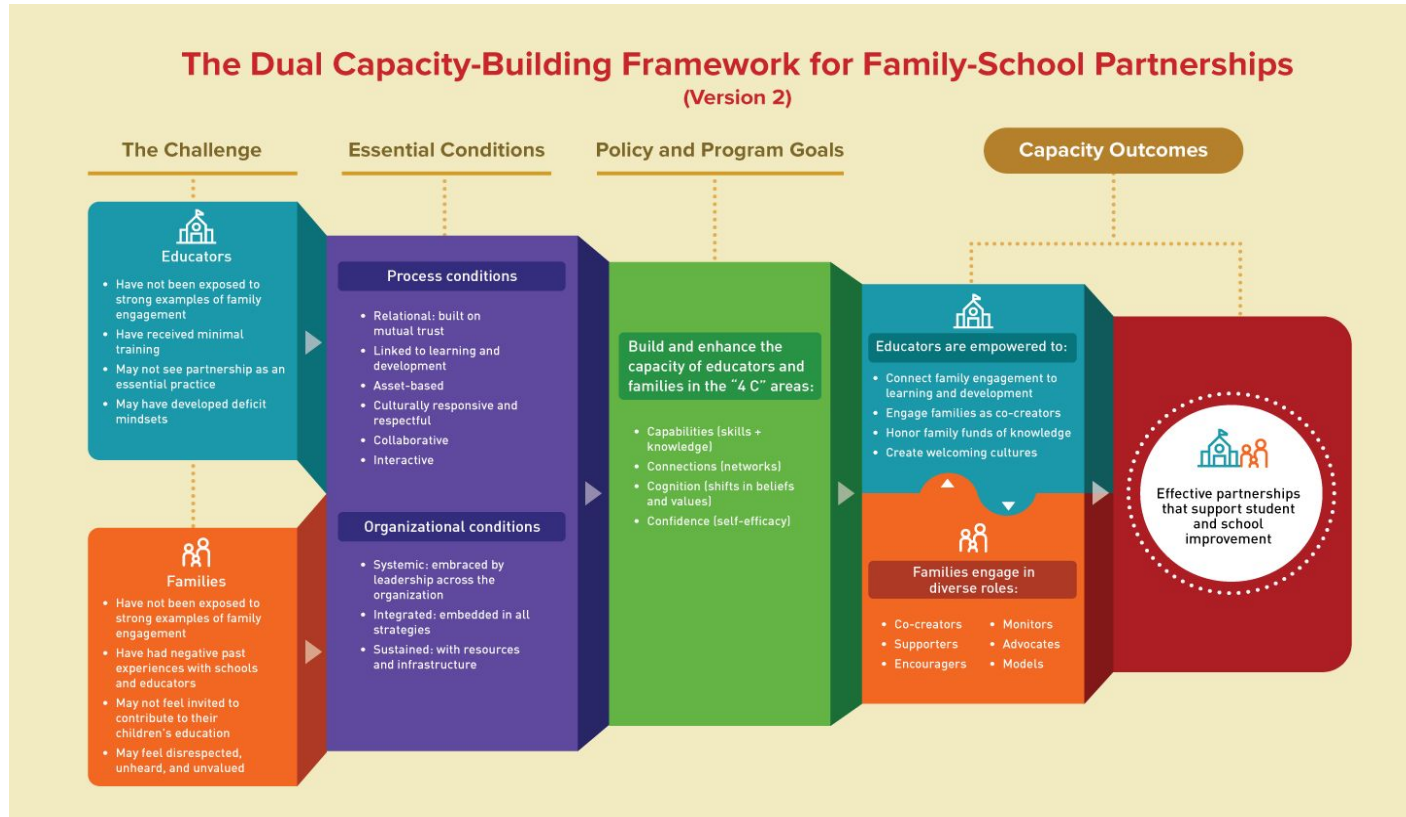
24%

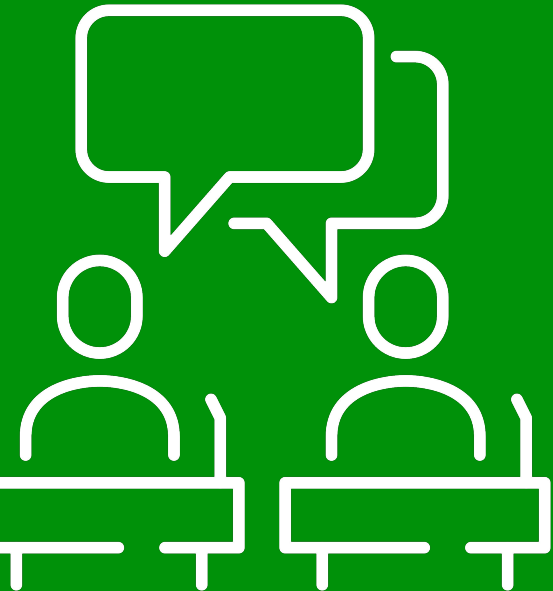
Black

41,551

*Students Enrolled in
Fayette County Public Schools*

Dual Capacity-Building Framework (Dr. Karen Mapp)





Family Engagement Definition



Family Engagement

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

FULL:

Families, Educators, and Community Partners collaborate closely and consistently making sure that ALL children have access to high quality learning opportunities and the supports they need to succeed.

EQUAL:

Families and educators recognize that both bring valuable knowledge to the table. Their deep knowledge and skills are complementary, overlapping and essential to ensuring children's success.

EQUITABLE:

Families are empowered to work with educators, public officials and community partners to remove systemic, structural and organizational barriers that perpetuate inequities and injustice.

Activity: Core Beliefs Shared Responsibility



Meet a new friend and let's engage!

- Review each statement. Give your partner 1 minute to share their responses and 1 minute to reflect on the responses.
- Take 5 minutes to discuss barriers that you face with family partnerships and preparing students for postsecondary transitions.

1.	All families support their students in graduating high school.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2.	All families have the capacity to support their students' postsecondary goals.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
3.	Families and school staff should be equal partners.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4.	The responsibility for helping high school students successfully transition from high school to the workforce, military and/or postsecondary education is a shared responsibility between school, home, and community.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree





Involvement versus Engagement

- Focuses on individual responsibility
 - Communication to families is one-way
 - Space for listening is a low priority
 - Focuses on programming, not people
 - Relationship is transactional
- Focuses on collective responsibility and partnership
 - Communication with families is two-way and listening is prioritized
 - Family knowledge is valued and honored
 - Focuses on collaborative practice
 - Relationship is transformative



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Focus Areas of Support

2025-26

Family Learning & Support

Engage families in inclusive learning opportunities that support their child(ren)'s learning at school, home and in the community.

- **Family University (FAMU)**
- **LIFT** (March/April)
- **Family Literacy** (NCFL*)
- **Family Learning Community Initiative** (NCFL*)
- **Multilingual Family Events**
- **Latino Family Literacy Project**
- **Family Workshops to Go** (NCFL)
- **Roots to Readiness**
- **Springboard Collaborative Summer Reading Camp**
- **Whiz Kids Bilingual Kindergarten Readiness**

• *National Center for Families Learning (NCFL)

Staff Learning & Support

Develop and implement a model of support and professional learning for all staff utilizing the Dual-Capacity Framework for Family-School Partnerships.

- **School-level FACE alignment & Professional Learning support** (FACE Team)
- **Partnering with Families for Student Success Cohorts** (NCFL)
- **Administrator Leadership Professional Learning Hubs**
- **Kentucky Refugee Immigrant & Inclusion Summit**
- **Student Support Professional Institute** (SSPI)
- **Districtwide Professional Learning Hubs**
- **Family Friendly School Certification** (Prichard Committee)

Community Outreach & Engagement

Identify and develop community engagement opportunities that enhance student, family and school support.

- **Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive** (July/August)
- **Back to School Rally** (July/August)
- **Banksgiving**
- **Cuts & Curls** (Year-round)
- **Quiz Bowl & Academic Challenge**
- **Community Events & Outreach**
- **Volunteer Outreach**
- **REAL Read** (Volunteer Initiative)
- **Community Support Online Platform for School Needs**
- **UK Preferred Partner for 2023-2025** (Student-Athlete Volunteers)

Grants:

- **Big Idea Grant Projects**



Post-Secondary Readiness Benchmarks

Post-Secondary Readiness

- Post-secondary readiness is the attainment of the necessary knowledge, skills, and disposition for a student to successfully transition to the next level of his or her career.
- To demonstrate Post-secondary readiness, students must earn a diploma/alternative diploma, or be classified as a grade 12 non-graduate AND meet **one** type of readiness (Academic or Career).

Academic Readiness

One College Readiness Benchmark

One AP or IB Exam
Benchmark

3 Hours of Dual Credit or
Articulated Credit

Career Readiness

Industry Certification

CTE End of Program
Assessment (EOP)

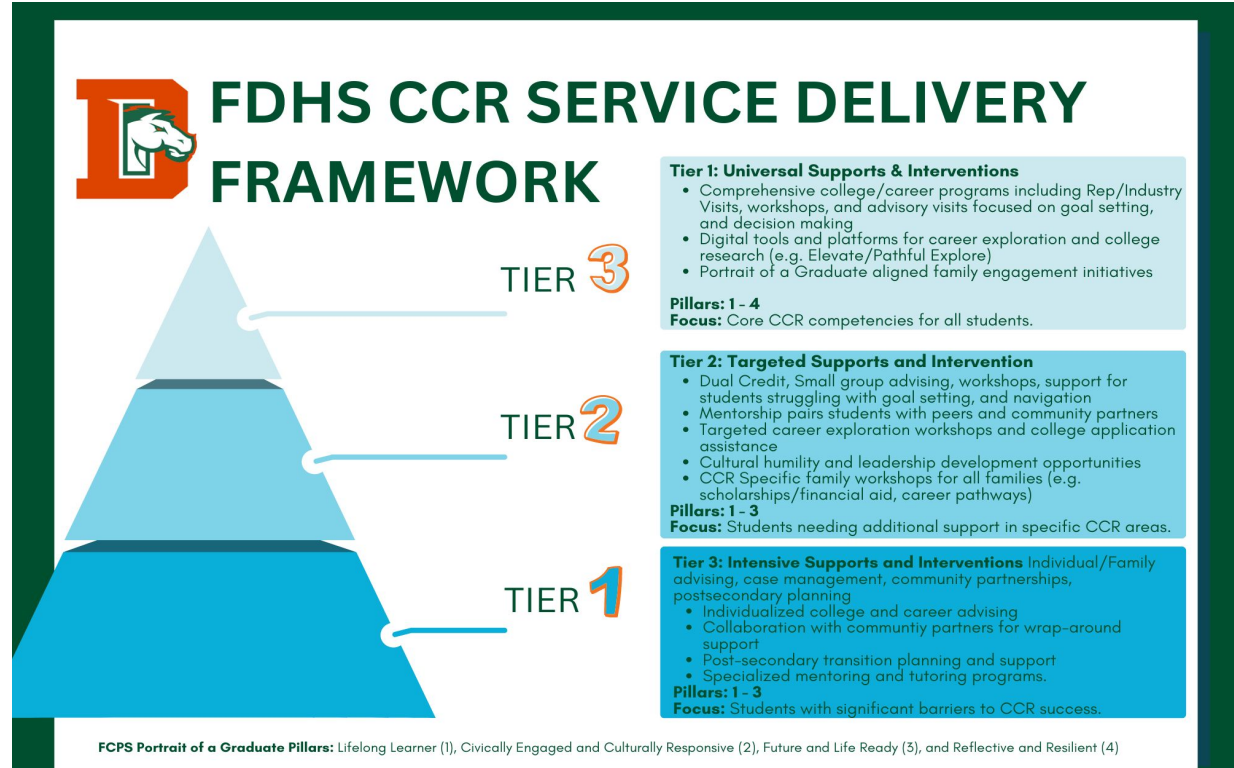
3 Hours of CTE Dual Credit
or Articulated Credit

Work-based
Learning



FCPS Service Delivery

The CCR Coach Service Delivery Framework is designed to align with the Fayette County Public Schools Portrait of a Graduate pillars of success: Lifelong Learner, Civically Engaged and Culturally Responsive, Future and Life Ready, and Reflective and Resilient



College & Career Readiness Alignment with Family and Community Engagement



Family University (FAMU) - series of family learning events hosted by FCPS and community partners

Family Literacy - The Latino Family Literacy Project - Family Stories - promotes reading, family literacy, and English-language development (infant/toddler, preschool, elementary, middle/high school)

College Awareness Program - provide guidance and instruction in college-going culture, ACT Prep, Life Skills development, campus college visits for students and families

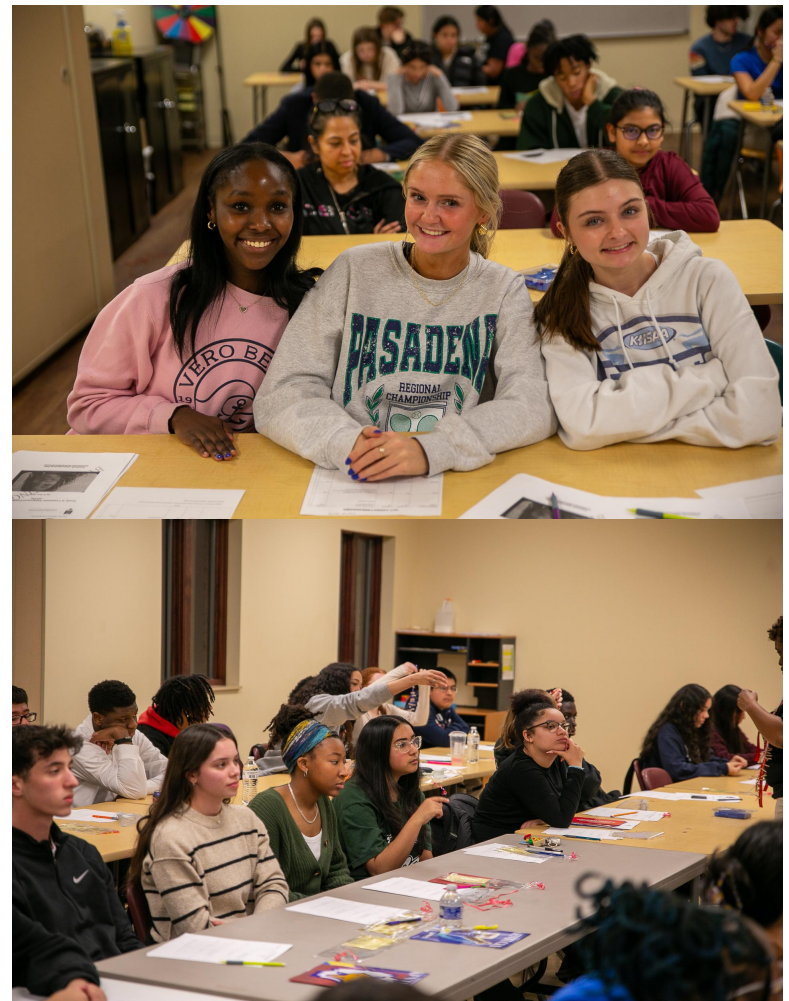
Lifting and Impacting Futures Today (LIFT) - college and career readiness conference for students of all ages and their families, collaboration with Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County (lead), FCPS, community partners

Multilingual Family Events - Multilingual & Gifted and Talented Services, Multilingual Ambassadors, EL, Migrant Education Program, Interpreting & Translation Services

Family Learning Community - includes Lexington/Fayette Urban County Government, Fayette County Public Schools, Urban League of Lexington, Commonwealth Credit Union, National Center for Families Learning for wraparound support for students and families

Programming for Students

- ACT Prep
- Career/Workforce Readiness
- Life Skills
- Social Emotional Wellness
- Resume Writing
- Interview Skills
- Transition to postsecondary
- College, Career & Community Resource Fair



Programming for Families

Workshop Series:

- Financial Literacy
- Scholarships
- FAFSA/Financial Aid
- Career/Workforce Readiness
- Transitions to middle and high school
- College and Career Timeline
- College, Career & Community Resource Fair
- Latino Family Literacy Project - Graciela's Dream





College Awareness Program (CAP)

Broadening Horizons

This program focuses on building a college-going culture for all students and their families.

Through targeted activities, early engagement, and comprehensive resources, it demystifies the college application process and makes postsecondary education an accessible and tangible goal from an early age.





Fayette County
Public Schools
Department of Family and
Community Engagement

COLLEGE AWARENESS PROGRAM

IMPACT REPORT

SPRING 2024-
SPRING 2025



- 132 student participants in ACT Prep and Success Skills sessions
- 90+ families participated in at least 3 family learning sessions
- 21% improved on ACT
- 14 community partners participated



Latino Literacy Project: Graciela's Dream



Igniting Family Engagement

As a key component of Latino Literacy, "Graciela's Dream" powerfully links literacy with postsecondary aspirations.

This initiative is designed to engage the entire family, empowering parents and students to navigate the educational system together. It builds a foundation of confidence and shared purpose, ensuring families are active partners in their child's journey to college.



Roots to Readiness

Building Equitable Pathways

This initiative builds a strong foundation for students and families to grow toward a successful future.

By providing advocacy training, financial literacy, direct college exposure, and intergenerational learning experiences, Roots to Readiness equips the entire community to support and uplift its students, ensuring they are prepared for every step of their postsecondary journey.



Roots to Readiness



**Postsecondary Success
for All Generations**



Fayette County
Public Schools

*A family learning pathway centering
Black and Brown families in
Fayette County Public Schools*

Purpose

***Roots to Readiness** is a culturally responsive, year-long initiative designed to strengthen postsecondary readiness by meaningfully engaging Black and Brown families. Through advocacy training, college exposure, financial literacy, and intergenerational learning, the program builds trust between schools and families while advancing student success.*

Key Components

- September 2025-May 2026
- College Visit to a state college/university
- Relationship Building through opportunities for storytelling
- Financial Literacy Workshops with Commonwealth Credit Union
- Family Advocacy & Postsecondary Planning Sessions
- “The Family Reunion” year-end celebration and certificate ceremony

Measuring Impact

Aligned with FCPS CDIP:

- *Increases post-secondary readiness*
- *Intentional effort to engage all families within the district*

METRICS:

- Pre/post surveys on family knowledge and confidence
- Event attendance and engagement data
- Family feedback and testimonials
- Certificate completions at year-end celebration



Connections to 2025 FCPS Family Engagement



Survey: What did families say?

- Response Count: 14,087; Total Households: 25,909
- Survey was translated into Arabic, French, Japanese, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, Spanish, and Swahili
- Survey looked at three primary areas: overall perception of family engagement, communication methods, and culture and climate; data indicated general positive feedback in all areas
- Lower satisfaction among Black/African American families and those receiving special education services with lower levels of agreement regarding the usefulness of communication methods and the inclusiveness of school culture and climate
- The Hispanic/Latino family Net Promoter Score and those who receive English Learner Services were higher than other demographics



Creating with Family Voice in Mind



Families Strengths: At a recent community event, we had the opportunity for families to share their strengths by answering the following question:

What are you most proud of in your family? What helps your family stay strong, connected, or keep pushing forward—even when it's hard?

Families' Challenges: What makes it hard to show up?

- Scheduling considerations: conflicts (work/family obligations), time consuming, unexpected changes
- Start Times: Sometimes the programs start late in the evening
- Transportation**
- Getting Friends to Join
- Stress



Creating with Family Voice in Mind



What would make a program feel right for your family?

- More communication
- The support that is needed
- Intentionality with communication: emails, texts, phone messaging
- Transportation
- Single parents: social support/communication
- Making it all-inclusive
- Advanced notice
- Translation Support
- Activities
- The beneficial long-term goals



Let's Plan with Community Partners

Join us in a gallery walk to collect ideas around the following questions:

1. **Existing Strengths & Relationships:** Where have you seen the most success in engaging Black and Brown families around readiness and advocacy?
2. **Needs & Opportunities:** What needs are families in your network naming most often when it comes to postsecondary readiness?
3. **Alignment & Contribution:** How can I/my organization support Roots to Readiness? (What services/support do we offer?)

Next Steps - *"The Longest Dinner Table"*





Toolkit Audit: CCR Family Learning Partnership



Defining Your Vision and Alignment

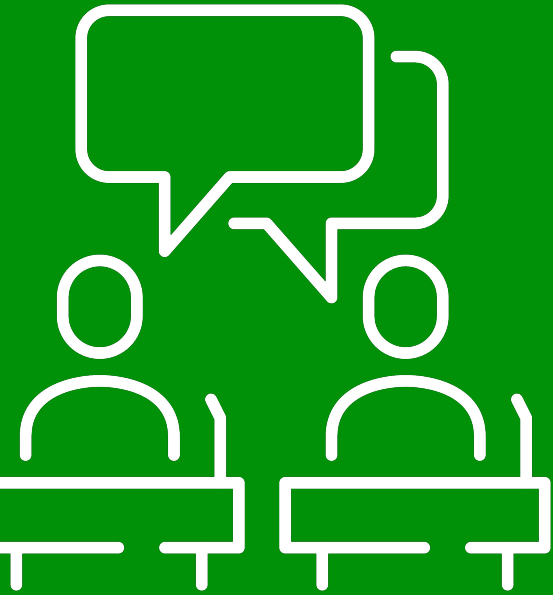
- **Audit Question:** Are our family engagement efforts aligned with broader CCR goals?
- Ensure family engagement supports broader school, district, and organizational goals, such as improving student achievement through rigorous curriculum.
- Explore methods for empowering families to actively engage in their children's postsecondary education, fostering agency.

Toolkit Audit: CCR Family Learning Partnership



Assessing Your Engagement Model

- Use models like the Dual Capacity-Building Framework to structure partnership efforts.
- **Conduct a “Pulse Check”:** After family activities, verify if families leave knowing their child’s learning goals and how (through practice) to employ a new tool at home, and have the opportunity to share knowledge about their child with educators.



Toolkit Audit: CCR Family Learning Partnership



Specific Strategies and Resources

- **Reflect:** Have we analyzed and implemented specific, targeted strategies for and with families?
- Implement Targeted Initiatives
- Use Digital Portfolios
- Facilitate Intentional Networking

Toolkit Audit: CCR Family Learning Partnership



Leveraging Data and Voice

- **Reflect:** Are we effectively using data and family voice to address barriers and shape needs?
- Review Data Sources
- Address Barriers
- Tackle Top Concern



Toolkit Audit: CCR Family Learning Partnership

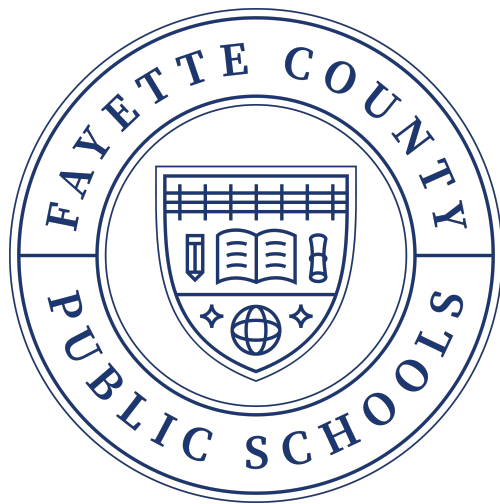


Collaborative Partnerships

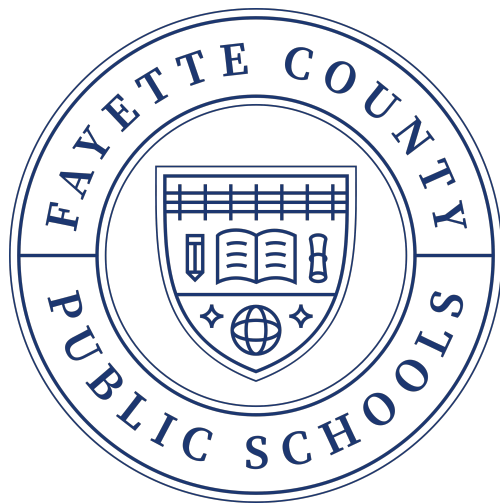
- **Reflect:** Have we described and cultivated the necessary collaborative partnerships?
- Commit to working collaboratively with families and the community.
- Review Partner List
 - Do you have a partner list?
 - Actively build partnerships across schools, community partners, service organizations, and postsecondary institutions.

Activity & Audit Checklist:

go.fcps.net/CCRActivityAuditChecklist



Questions?



Thank you!

Exit Activity: Postsecondary Challenges

Word Cloud Poll

What is one thing that you can do to help students and families overcome postsecondary myths and misconceptions?

- Identify Barriers/Misconceptions
- Communicate
- Provide Resources
- Serve

