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Family Engagement Supports and Resources: South Carolina



CCNETWORK  **REGION 6**
Georgia
North Carolina
South Carolina

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The Region 6 Comprehensive Center (RC6) is operated by the SERVE Center at UNC Greensboro and provides technical assistance to Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Assistance is tailored to the needs of the individual states while addressing the priorities of the U.S. Department of Education.

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Research suggests that no matter the socio-economic status or background of a student, if their parents and families are engaged in their education, they are more likely to do better in school and stay in school longer (Epstein and Associates, 2018). As a result, many educational leaders are deeply committed to supporting districts, schools, and communities to engage parents and families more actively in the overall development of their students.

The information in this document is intended as a resource for those in South Carolina doing the important work of supporting family engagement. That is, as State Education Agency (SEA) staff and others provide technical assistance to districts and schools, share research and best practices, and continuously reflect on and improve parental involvement policies/practices across the state, the RC6 at SERVE offers this document as a roadmap of who is doing what work. This resource is not intended as an exhaustive list of all those in the state working on family engagement issues, but rather, as an introduction to some of the work underway both statewide and regionally within the state. As context, we start with a brief review of family engagement under the Every Student Succeeds Act. Then we describe the work of the:

- A. South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) laws, guidance, and offices with family engagement functions.
- B. Federally funded Carolina Family Engagement Center in South Carolina.
- C. Addition State, Regional, and Community-based Parent Engagement Supports (non-SCDE).

Federal Legislation Background: Every Student Succeeds Act

Title I, Part A is a federally funded program under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The purpose of Title I legislation is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. The ESSA legislation (2015) contains many requirements and opportunities for states, districts, and Title I schools to enhance their parent and family engagement efforts. For example, SEAs must ensure that local education agencies and schools are made aware of effective parent and family engagement practices. Section 1111(g)(2)(F) of the ESSA states:

The State educational agency will support the collection and dissemination to local educational agencies and schools of effective parent and family engagement strategies, including those included in the parent and family engagement policy under section 1116.¹

Per Section 1116(a) of ESSA, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must conduct outreach to all parents and family members and implement programs, activities, and procedures with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children. To support and ensure compliance with the law, LEAs must reserve at least one percent of Title I allocation to assist schools with carrying out parent and family engagement efforts.²

¹ <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/legislation/title-i.html#TITLE-I-PART-A>

² <https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/every-student-succeeds-act-essa/consolidated-state-plan-approved-by-usde-on-may-3-2018/>

A. SCDE Laws, Guidance, and Offices with Family Engagement Functions

This section provides an overview of the various supports (e.g., laws, guidance, offices/departments, advisory groups) that have been established in South Carolina as a means to ensure the implementation of meaningful family engagement in the overall development of students across the state.

SC Code of Laws Title 59, Chapter 28. In addition to ESSA requirements, many states have also passed their own legislative mandates tasked with promoting family engagement in schools. More specifically, in South Carolina, the Parental Involvement in Their Children’s Education Act (known as [Title 59, Chapter 28](#)). The purpose of this law is to: (a) heighten awareness of the importance of parental involvement; (b) encourage the establishment and maintenance of parent-friendly schools, and (c) emphasize that when parents and schools work as partners, a child’s academic success can best be assured.³ The Act defines the roles and responsibilities of the Governor, the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Education, the Education Oversight Committee, local school boards of trustees, and school district superintendents as it relates to promoting family engagement in the schools.

SC Family Engagement K-12 Framework. To provide guidance in support of the Title 59 legislative mandate, the SCDE developed [The South Carolina Family Engagement K-12 Framework \(2019\)](#) with the assistance of the Council of Chief State School Officers. The Framework provides suggested action steps necessary to implement family engagement policies and practices at the state, district, and school levels.

SC School Improvement Council. [The South Carolina School Improvement Council](#) (SC-SIC) was established in South Carolina law to provide training, technical assistance, statutory accountability, and other resources vital to the continued success of community-based School Improvement Councils in each of the state’s public schools. The organization supports parents, administrators, teachers, students, community members, and business representatives committed to quality public education in South Carolina. The mission of the SC School Improvement Council is: "To facilitate meaningful parent and community involvement in our state’s public schools by providing resources, tools and strategies to local School Improvement Councils and other stakeholder groups."

SC Annual Parent Survey. The South Carolina Parent Survey was designed in 2001 to meet the requirements of the Parental Involvement in Their Children’s Education Act—which requires the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) to “survey parents to determine if state and local efforts are effective in increasing parental involvement.” Since its inception, the parent survey contains items regarding parent perceptions of the learning environment in the school, home and school relations, and the social and physical environment of the school.⁴

SC Family Engagement Liaison Roundtable. The Office of Intervention Services Family and Community Engagement (FACE), in partnership with Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC), offer bi-monthly virtual roundtable sessions for parent and family engagement liaisons and other related cross-services educators to connect and engage through dialogue and professional learning that is focused on innovative engagement strategies and systems that influence and support their growth.

SCDE Internal Family Engagement Roundtable. This roundtable is an opportunity for SCDE staff to meet quarterly to connect research and practice to promote collaboration/dialogue, professional learning, and special projects (e.g., a “reward process” for recognizing districts/schools that exemplify parent-family-community engagement). The goals of the roundtable are to: (a) connect with peers from within

³ www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c028.php

⁴ <https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Parent%20Survey%20Reports/Parent%20Surveyforweb.06152021.pdf>

the agency providing parent and family engagement services and/or resources; (b) learn and share together about the importance of preparing and supporting stakeholders for impactful parent-family-community engagement; (c) discuss the different roles and expectations for championing parent-family-community engagement; (d) identify parent-family-community engagement opportunities for collaborating and coordinating resources and services; and (e) collect and maintain a database of all parent and family engagement programs, services, and resources. This group also work together to promote and support districts and schools in utilizing the South Carolina Family Engagement K-12 Framework.

The following SCDE offices are currently active members of the SCDE Internal Family Engagement Roundtable.

1. Office of Student Intervention Services
2. Office of Federal State Accountability
3. Office of Early Learning and Literacy
4. Office of Special Education Services
5. Office of Adult Education
6. Office of Educator Services



SCDE Family Engagement Functions

SCDE has six offices that have been identified as providing family engagement services. The Office of Student Intervention Services, which houses the Family Community Engagement Initiative, plays a lead role in supporting partnerships between community organizations, families, and schools by coordinating access of family engagement resources. To provide an at-a-glance overview of the various family engagement initiatives offered across the SCDE, Table 1 includes the contacts for each of the six offices and summarizes the family engagement services each of the offices provides as well as relevant resources.

In addition, Table 2 provides a summary of the organizational responsibilities and relevant family engagement resources provided by the SC Education Oversight Committee (EOC) and Family Connection of South Carolina. The EOC and Family Connection both provide legislatively mandated services in collaboration with the SCDE.

Table 1. SCDE Family Engagement Offices, Contact Information, Services and Resources

SCDE Office/Contact	Family Engagement Services/Office Responsibilities	Resources
<p>Office of Student Intervention Services</p> <p>Sabrina Moore, PhD Director 803-734-8433 smoore@ed.sc.gov</p> <p>Regina Thurmond FACE Liaison 803-734-1598 rthurmond@ed.sc.gov</p>	<p>The Office of Student Intervention Services (OSIS) supports the implementation and enhancement of family engagement frameworks and activities in schools and districts through several initiatives:</p> <p>The Role of the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Liaison</p> <p>The FACE liaison works actively to: 1) Supports partnerships between community organizations, families, and schools in an effort to coordinate access of resources for all students in South Carolina; and 2) develop and implement programs to build capacity within local communities across the state in the coordination of volunteers, business sponsorships, community coalitions, and faith-based organizations.</p> <p>The goals of the FACE liaisons are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinate initiatives to support parental involvement at the school, district, and statewide levels; • provide parental involvement staff development training for district and school liaisons and facilitate statewide parental involvement conference; • assist all districts, especially those in high poverty areas, in building the capacity to implement best practices in enrichment opportunities, extended day programs, and strengthening community support and engagement; and • assist schools and districts in fostering family friendliness and parental input in schools. 	<p>OSIS web page: https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/student-intervention-services/</p> <p>FACE web page: https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/student-intervention-services/family-community-engagement/</p> <p>South Carolina Family Engagement K-12 Framework: https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/student-intervention-services/family-community-engagement/school-information/scde-family-engagement-k-12-framework/</p>

SCDE Office/Contact	Family Engagement Services/Office Responsibilities	Resources
<p>Joyce Patterson 21st CCLC, Team Lead 803-734-8291 jypatts@ed.sc.gov</p>	<p>21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) The 21st CCLC program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the ESSA (Title IV, Part B; 20 U.S.C. §§ 7171–7176). Each 21st CCLC subgrantee is required to include a family literacy component designed to serve the families of participating students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist subgrantees in strengthening family engagement, the 21st CCLC staff • offers yearly, mandatory afterschool program directors’ professional development (including a presentation on family literacy and engagement); and • contracts with You for Youth, a training non-profit organization, to conduct training workshops on family literacy; and • conducts monitoring site visits and desktop audits of the South Carolina programs funded by 21st CCLC with the intent to ensure strong family literacy programs and effective family engagement. 	<p>21st CCLC web page: https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/student-intervention-services/21st-century-community-learning-centers/</p>
<p>Office of Federal and State Accountability</p> <p>Sarah Longshore Director 803-734-8118 sclongshore@ed.sc.gov</p>	<p>The Office of Federal and State Accountability (OFSA) provides professional development in a variety of ways to assist educators as they plan and implement parent and family engagement programs, activities, and procedures. Each Title I district, and school is required to develop a parent and family engagement policy, along with a home-school compact.</p> <p>The OFSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offers yearly training to new Title I coordinators; • holds yearly rules and regulations meetings; • conducts parent and family engagement sessions at various conferences throughout the year; • provides technical assistance to Title I districts and schools; • works collaboratively with other offices within the SCDE, including FACE, to provide Title I updates and assistance; and • offers an online parent and family engagement toolkit, along with other online resources, to assist Title I districts and schools in their efforts to engage parents, families, and communities in their school improvement efforts. 	<p>Title I Parental Involvement web page: ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/title-i/title-i-lea-support/parent-involvement/</p> <p>School Help for Homeless Children with Disabilities: Information for Parents: ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/File/policy/federal-education-programs/mckinney%20vento/InfoforMVIDEAParents.pdf</p>

SCDE Office/Contact	Family Engagement Services/Office Responsibilities	Resources
<p>Foster Care Birley Wright 803-734-8563 bwright@ed.sc.gov</p> <p>McKinney-Vento & Title I, Part D State Coordinator Linda Mirabal-Pace 803-734-6010 lpace@ed.sc.gov</p> <p>Migrant Education State Coordinator Zachary Taylor 803-734-8219 ztaylor@ed.sc.gov</p> <p>Title III/ Multilingual Education State Coordinators: Susan Murphy Cohort 1 803-734-1601</p>	<p>Foster Care The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) establishes guidelines to ensure school access, improved educational outcomes, and enhanced academic stability for children and youth in foster care. The South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Social Services have collaborated to create joint guidance for local education agencies and local child welfare agencies in their work to identify children and youth in foster care and to ensure the successful implementation of ESSA provisions.</p> <p>McKinney-Vento & Title 1, Part D The Education of Homeless Children and Youth program at SCDE oversees the federal McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program. The program provides training, technical assistance, and monitoring, as well as competitive federal funding to support school district McKinney-Vento programs. Homeless children and youth must have access to the educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Every school district is required to have a trained, local homeless education liaison to identify and assist families with enrolling and fully participating in school.</p> <p>Migrant Education The purpose of the South Carolina Department of Education Migrant Education Program (MEP) is to ensure that migrant students have the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and student performance standards that all children are expected to meet. State-level MEP staff, school districts, and local operating agencies provide educational and support services that assist migrant students to overcome educational disruption, cultural and language barriers, and other problems that result from repeated moves. Successful transition to employment or postsecondary education is the goal for every student. Funds that support the migrant program are provided through a federal grant to qualifying states.</p> <p>Title III/English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) The Office of Federal and State Accountability takes an asset-based approach by referring to English learners (ELs) as multilingual learners (MLs). The term ML embodies the shared core values of diversity and inclusion which are integral parts of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Title III is responsible for the oversight of the language instruction of MLs and immigrant children and youth. This is accomplished by:</p>	<p>Foster Care web page: ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/title-i/title-i-part-a-foster-care/</p> <p>McKinney-Vento web page: ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/essa-title-ix-part-a-mckinney-vento-homeless-assistance-act/</p> <p>Migrant Education web page: https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esea-title-iii-migrant-education-part-c/</p> <p>ESEA Title III web page: https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esea-title-iii-english-to-speakers-of-other-languages-esol-program/</p>

SCDE Office/Contact	Family Engagement Services/Office Responsibilities	Resources
<p>smurphy@ed.sc.gov</p> <p>Elizabeth Supan Cohort 2 803-734-1601 esupan@ed.sc.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administering grant programs that help children develop proficiency in English and achieve high content standards; • recommending policies and promoting best practices for meeting the needs MLs; • strengthening collaboration and coordination among federal, state, and local programs serving MLs and monitoring funded programs, and providing technical assistance that addresses outcomes and accountability. 	
<p>Office of Early Learning and Literacy</p> <p>Quincie Moore Director 803-734-8500 qmoore@ed.sc.gov</p>	<p>The Office of Early Learning and Literacy (OELL) believes family engagement is a partnership between families and schools. This relationship seeks to create active participation, communication, and teamwork between families, schools, classrooms, and the communities in which they serve. The OELL office seeks to empower families and communities by providing assistance and resources to ensure student achievement and success of all South Carolina students.</p>	<p>OELL Resources for Families web page: https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/early-learning-and-literacy/family-learning-and-resources/resources-for-families/</p> <p>Supporting Early Literacy at Home: A Parent’s Guide (online modules) https://scde.coursearc.com/content/supporting-early-literacy-home-parent-s-guide/lessons/introduction/</p>
<p>Office of Special Education Services</p> <p>Rebecca Davis Director 803-734-8224 rcdavis@ed.sc.gov</p> <p>Cheryl Fitts Family and Community Engagement Liaison Director 803-734-1280 cfitts@ed.sc.gov</p>	<p>The Office of Special Education Services (OSES) works diligently to improve services and programs for students with disabilities ages 3-22 served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This requires engagement of families along each stage of child and program development. OSES recognizes that parental/family involvement is critical to student success and works alongside local education agencies and community organizations to provide information and resources that promote meaningful engagement.</p> <p>The OSES seeks to survey all parents/families annually collecting input on their involvement within the special education process. The survey is part of federal reporting requirements on parental involvement that schools facilitate as a means to improve services and results for children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). OSES also works closely with the state and federally regulated Advisory Council for Educating Students with Disabilities (ACESD) with membership of 51% or more parents and/or individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>OSES understand that meaningful family engagement involves providing resources to assist in their understanding the special education process and working within the constraints of federal programs and local school procedures.</p>	<p>OSES web page: https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/</p> <p>OSES Parent Resources: https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/parent-resources/</p> <p>Advisory Council for Educating Students with Disabilities: https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/oversight-and-assistance-o-a/acesd/</p> <p>Virtual and Hybrid Learning Parents and Family Supports:</p>

SCDE Office/Contact	Family Engagement Services/Office Responsibilities	Resources
	<p>Reasons for OSES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> employ an ombudsperson to directly answer family and school special services related questions and provide assistance with informal dispute resolution; provide Facilitated IEP Team Meetings statewide to strengthen positive communication and aid in building family and school consensus in IEP development; designate a Family and Community Engagement Liaison to initiate, develop and oversee efforts that will shore up family-school partnerships; and, house family related information on the SCDE website. 	<p>https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/virtual-and-hybrid-learning/</p> <p>Related Services and Supplemental Supports for Parents: https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/parent-resources/related-services-and-supplemental-supports-for-parents/</p> <p>Local and State Disability Resources: https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/parent-resources/disability-resources/</p>
<p>Office of Adult Education</p> <p>Michael R. King Director 803-734-8300 Mrking@ed.sc.gov</p> <p>Harriette Jenerette Family Literacy Contact Education Associate 803-734-4708 hjeneret@ed.sc.gov</p>	<p>Adult Education and Family Literacy Act programs are funded by Title II: Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), authorized by Public Law 113-128, and administered by the South Carolina Department of Education.</p> <p>The Office of Adult Education takes generational approach to literacy activities for adults. The family literacy activities assist adults with: (a) obtaining the education and skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children; and (b) lead to sustainable improvements in the economic opportunities for their families.</p> <p>Literacy outcomes that promote self-sufficiency and improved economic opportunities are provided through offering students, who are parents or guardians, the opportunity to participate, in addition to adult education classes, the following Family Literacy components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Literacy (i.e., Adult Education) with the goal of obtaining a high school diploma, high school equivalent diploma, career readiness certificate, career pathway, postsecondary education, or the military; Training for Parents (i.e., Parent Education), guardians, or family members regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children; 	<p>Family Literacy web page: https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/adult-education/family-literacy/</p> <p>Family Literacy Grants: Approximately \$500,000 was available For 15 sub grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$60,000. The Family Literacy AEFLA Sub grant is competitive and requires 1:1 in matching funds</p>

SCDE Office/Contact	Family Engagement Services/Office Responsibilities	Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Activities between Parent and Child (i.e., Interactive Literacy Activities (ILA)) between parents or family members and their children. ILA must be supported by partnerships such as with the local school district, Head Start, Early Head Start, other entities and/or private partnerships; • Early Childhood Services (i.e., Early Care and Education (ECE)) is age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences. These services may be supported by partnerships such as the local school district, Head Start, Early Head Start, other entities and/or private partnerships. 	

Table 2 provides a summary of the organizational responsibilities and relevant family engagement resources provided by the SC Education Oversight Committee (EOC) and Family Connection of South Carolina. The EOC and Family Connection both provide legislatively mandated services in collaboration with the SCDE.

Table 2. Independent Groups/Organizations Supports to SCDE

Independent Groups/Organizations	Organizational Responsibilities	Resources
<p>SC Education Oversight Committee</p> <p>Matthew Ferguson Executive Director 803-734-6148</p> <p>Dana Yow Deputy Director 803-734-6164</p>	<p>The SC Education Oversight Committee (EOC) is an independent, nonpartisan group who have been appointed by the governor to enact the SC Education Accountability Act of 1998. The mission of the EOC is to affect SC’s educational system by creating a collaborative environment of parents, educators, community leaders and policymakers.</p> <p>The EOC supports the awareness of the SC School Report Cards. The Report Cards are intended to allow parents and others to see how schools are improving toward meeting the Transformational Goals the state has set.</p> <p>In addition, the Parental Involvement in Their Children’s Education Act requires the EOC to survey parents to assess if state and local efforts are helping to increase parental involvement.⁵</p>	<p>SC Education Oversight Committee website: https://eoc.sc.gov/</p> <p>South Carolina District and School Report Cards: https://www.screportcards.com/</p> <p>Parent Survey Annual Report for 2019: https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Parent%20Survey%20Reports/Parent%20Survey%20Report%20061520.pdf</p>

⁵ Schools in South Carolina were closed on March 16, 2020. As a result, the parent survey was not distributed in the Spring of 2020.

Independent Groups/Organizations	Organizational Responsibilities	Resources
<p>Family Connection of South Carolina</p>	<p>The Office of Special Education Services has a contractual relationship with Family Connection SC, the federally granted Parent Training Information Center (PTI), to help parents support young children’s language and literacy development, identification of developmental delays, and a transition from the Part C early intervention program to the preschool program. The Center works to provide weekly, low-or-no-cost language and literacy activities developed to prepare young children for kindergarten and provide access to families for developmental screenings and eligibility determination.</p> <p>Family Connection has regional offices across the state serving all 46 counties in the state, providing system navigation and connection to resources free to families. The Center hosts workshops, conferences, webinars and trainings for parents, youth and professionals. The intent of IDEA 2004 was to help children with disabilities achieve high standards by promoting accountability for results, enhancing parent involvement, and using recommended practices and materials. The services align with these objectives, with the goal to enhance and support collaborative home/school/community partnerships.</p>	<p>Family Connection of South Carolina website: www.familyconnections.org/</p>



B. Carolina Family Engagement Center

In 2018, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted a competitive grant process and awarded funds to establish Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs) serving 13 states. Funding for SFECs is authorized under Title IV, Part E of ESSA.

SFECs provide technical assistance and training to SEAs, LEAs, schools, families, and community organizations in the implementation and enhancement of family engagement policies, programs and activities designed to support student development and increase academic achievement. The University of South Carolina College of Education received one of the initial five-year awards to establish the Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC) within the SC School Improvement Council office. The South Carolina Department of Education serves as CFEC’s SEA partner.

CFEC liaisons are working side-by-side with 29 partner schools to develop, implement, and evaluate individualized school family engagement plans that meet federal, state, and district requirements and support existing school climate and student achievement goals.

Table 3. Carolina Family Engagement Center Goals/Services and Contact Information

Organization	Family Engagement Goals/Services	District/Schools Served
Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC) Karen Utter Project Director utter@email.sc.edu website: cfec.sc.gov/	Strengthen State Infrastructure Supporting Family Engagement: CFEC is working to strengthen statewide infrastructure by: (a) serving as a hub to link existing resources and services with schools and families, and (b) making capacity-building tools, trainings, and technical assistance in family engagement accessible to all education stakeholders.	Multiple state agencies and non-profit organizations, districts, and schools across South Carolina
	Build Capacity in Underserved Areas Through School Partnerships: CFEC provides long-term, intensive family engagement capacity-building training and technical assistance to 29 partner schools in eight districts across South Carolina through its team of regional liaisons.	Partner Districts and Schools Anderson School District Two (7 schools) Beaufort County School District (1 school) Charleston County School District (2 schools) Chester County (5 schools) Clarendon School District Two (5 schools) Lexington School District Two (2 schools) Richland One (5 schools) Rock Hill Schools (2 schools)
	Teacher Support and Incentives: CFEC has two cohorts of classroom teachers participating in a two-year partnership initiative that provides intensive support in family engagement planning, implementation, and evaluation. Teachers who successfully complete their partnership with CFEC and submit evaluation results will receive a \$1,000 stipend.	Teacher Team Cohort 2019-21 Participating districts (7), 10 teachers completed Teacher Team Cohort 2020-2022 Participating districts (7), 8 teachers Teacher Team Cohort 2021-2023 Participating districts (9), 13 teachers

Organization	Family Engagement Goals/Services	District/Schools Served
	Parent Leadership Support and Incentives: CFEC launched a program in the fall of 2020 that serves emerging parent leaders in underserved communities. Parents participate in eight monthly learning sessions and complete a plan for action in their school community. Upon successful completion, graduates receive a \$1,000 stipend.	Twelve parents from the Charleston area graduated from the inaugural 2020-2021 cohort. An additional 15 parents from the Midlands will participate in the 2021-2022 cohort. A train the trainer model is under development to help grow the program in future years.

C. Other State, Regional, and Community-based Parent Engagement Supports (non-SCDE)

This section identifies various organizations across South Carolina that provide parent and family engagement services within the state. Please note that these tables are not an exhaustive list of all the organizations working on family engagement issues in South Carolina, but instead are simply a compilation of organizations that emerged in conversations with family engagement advocates during the development of this document. The content provided in Table 4 and Table 5 come from the organization’s websites. The intent is for these tables to be updated and expanded as the Region 6 Comprehensive Center staff continues to work more closely with family engagement policymakers and technical assistance providers across the state.

Table 4. Family Engagement Services and Resources in South Carolina (non-SCDE)

Organization	Statewide Family Engagement Services ⁶	Resources
Children’s Trust of South Carolina	Children’s Trust is the statewide organization focused on the prevention of child abuse, neglect, and injury. Their robust training and professional development opportunities give those working with children and families the prevention know-how to keep kids safe and build strong families. With a generous grant from The Duke Endowment, Children’s Trust is working to activate the Positive Parenting Program, known as Triple P, in Georgetown and Greenville counties. This work is building a model prevention system that can be replicated across South Carolina to change the state’s approach to the prevention of child maltreatment.	scchildren.org/
Family Resource Center for Disabilities and Special Needs	The Family Resource Center for Disabilities and Special Needs is a nonprofit organization promoting opportunities for learning, inclusion, and empowerment for individuals with disabilities and special needs, their families, and their communities.	frcdsn.org/
Francis Marion Center for Excellence for Preparing Teachers of Children of Poverty	Francis Marion’s Center for Excellence for Preparing Teachers of Children of Poverty disseminates information, provides professional development, and works to support increased teacher effectiveness related to teaching children of poverty. In its role as a partner with John Hopkins University’s National Network of Partnership Schools, The Center annually funds school-	fmucenterofexcellence.org/nnps/outreach/

⁶ Descriptions provided in this column come from the organization’s website.

Organization	Statewide Family Engagement Services ⁶	Resources
	based initiatives that support the efforts of P-12 teachers to cultivate goal-oriented family and community partnerships.	
Save the Children	Save the Children’s Early Steps to School Success program helps babies and young children in low-income families across the state build a foundation of language and early literacy skills, while supporting their social and emotional development and equipping their parents with the knowledge and skills to be their first and best teachers. In addition, the nonprofit’s school-age programs provide struggling readers in kindergarten through sixth grade the opportunity to grow as readers and catch up with their peers, while offering homework support and engaging activities that combine fun, fitness and learning after school.	savethechildrenactionnetwork.org/state/south-carolina/
Serve & Connect	Founded in 2015, Serve & Connect is a South Carolina non-profit dedicated to the mission of igniting positive change through police and community partnerships. Working directly with law enforcement, community stakeholders, and citizen leaders, they aspire to improve neighborhoods challenged by poverty, crime, and neglect by building trust, optimizing collaboration, and fostering a shared sense of pride. Their team, with help from board members, friends, and volunteers, works tirelessly to support the communities and people of South Carolina by developing and implementing the necessary tools and training designed to elevate communication and establish positive interaction among everyone involved.	https://serveandconnect.net/who-we-are/
South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families	<p>The South Carolina Center for Father and Families is an outgrowth of the Fatherhood Engagement Initiative of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina and was founded through a partnership between the foundation and the state Department of Social Services.</p> <p>South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families is a nonprofit organization that supports a statewide infrastructure that reduces barriers and strengthens relationships between fathers and families throughout South Carolina. The center and local affiliates create resources and tools that help men understand what responsible fatherhood means and how to achieve it.</p>	scfathersandfamilies.com sistersofcharityhealth.org/outreach/south-carolina-center-for-fathers-and-families/
South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS)	Family Engagement Services is a partnering program that works with families that are involved with DSS. It is a program that works toward what is best for children to make it easier for the people who love them to come together and help DSS develop a plan for their care. Family Group Conferencing is the main service provided to client families. When a family is referred for DSS services, a coordinator is assigned to help them.	dss.sc.gov/prevention/family-engagement-services/
South Carolina First Steps	South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness (SCFS) is both a nonprofit and state agency focused on getting children ready for school and life success. Established in 1999 by the South Carolina General Assembly to close the gap on students’ preparedness for success in school, South Carolina First Steps takes a holistic approach to accomplishing its mission of preparing all kids for	https://www.scfirststeps.org/about-us/who-we-are/

Organization	Statewide Family Engagement Services ⁶	Resources
	success in school, work and life, offering services that improve children’s health, strengthen families, expand access to quality child care, increase participation in four-year-old kindergarten (4K) programs, and help transition rising kindergartners into school.	
South Carolina Head Start Association	The South Carolina State Head Start Association works to create safe, healthy, nurturing learning environments for all children in South Carolina. They focus on the early years in children’s lives, schools, and communities. More specifically, they provide resources and support for children’s first teachers — their parents — and others who care for and teach them.	sc-headstart.org/
South Carolina PASO	PASOs provides culturally responsive education on family health, early childhood, and positive parenting skills; individual guidance for participants in need of resources; and partnership with health care and social service providers to help them provide more effective services. Founded in 2005, PASOs helps the Latino community and service providers work together for strong and healthy families.	www.scpasos.org/

Table 5. Related Community-based Initiatives in South Carolina

Organization	Regional Family Engagement Services	Resources
The Accelerator for Learning and Leadership for South Carolina (ALL4SC)	ALL4SC, funded by the University’s Excellence Initiative, is one of eight research and outreach programs designed to spur creativity inside of the University of South Carolina and help people lead better lives across the state. ALL4SC implements transformative practices in schools and communities across South Carolina. Its program design is grounded in community-based schooling that integrates the academic, social, and health needs of students.	sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/education/partnerships_outreach/all4sc/index.php
Communities in Schools	The mission of Community in Schools is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Communities in Schools believes that transformative relationships are key to unlocking a student's potential.	CIS of SC website: https://cisofsc.org/
South Carolina Low Country Promise Zone	The mission of the SC Low Country Promise Zone is to reduce poverty by working collaboratively to take advantage of priority federal grant opportunities. Partners and supporters of the Promise Zone focus on efforts to improve the quality of life of residents by growing jobs, leveraging private capital for economic prosperity, reducing crime, expanding health care, creating affordable housing, and improving education. The initiative has a K-12 Education and Early Childhood workgroup that seeks to reduce poverty through a holistic approach to education at all levels that prepares citizens for 21 st century careers. Included in the SC Low Country Promise Zone are all of Allendale, Bamberg and Hampton counties and a significant part of Barnwell, Colleton and Jasper counties.	https://scpromisezone.org/2016/03/promise-zone-unveils-new-long-term-strategic-action-plan-for-region/

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