

Literacy Events

Bringing Families and Schools Together

Correlation of *Scholastic Literacy Events* to US Department of Education's Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships

Grades PreK–5



scholastic.com/literacyevents

“Parent participation is the leading predictor that supports students’ academic success, regardless of family race, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or cultural background.”

— Dr. Karen Mapp

Correlation of *Scholastic Literacy Events* to US Department of Education’s Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships

The framework was developed by the US Department of Education with the assistance of Dr. Karen Mapp from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. It was designed to help schools and districts create initiatives that build both the capacity of its educators and its families through partnership, with the mutual goal of student achievement and school improvement. With the growing importance of family engagement as part of a national agenda, *Scholastic Literacy Events* is positioned to be the leading resource to build family and school partnerships. This easy-to-use kit includes tools that support each of the framework’s components.



US DOE Family Engagement Capacity-Building Framework Summary. For more information, visit www.scholastic.com/face/framework.

Framework Opportunity Conditions Supported by *Scholastic Literacy Events*

A. Process Conditions

Process Conditions refer to the steps or actions needed to achieve a successful family engagement initiative. *Scholastic Literacy Events* supports these five process conditions:

1. Linked to Learning

The activities and books included in each *Scholastic Literacy Events* kit support the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards for reading and writing. These broad standards, which serve as the basis of many state standards, were developed to establish specific grade-by-grade educational expectations meant to provide students nationwide with a quality education that prepares them for college and careers. The specific skill focus is noted with each activity, and the activities support children's learning with varying learning styles. In addition, Family Tip Sheets include reading milestones and tips for reading aloud, along with home literacy activities and writing.

2. Relational

The activities and books included in each *Scholastic Literacy Events* kit are designed to support a connection between home and school. There are opportunities to recruit family members as volunteers in various capacities as well as volunteer recruitment tips and tools. During the events, activities help build a learning community with quick and fun icebreakers followed by small-group activities, which encourage families to share and celebrate their experiences. The literacy event kits provide easy-to-do at-home activities that give families an opportunity to practice and master what they learned during the event. Ongoing communication is then encouraged and reinforced with Families-as-Partners forms. These forms provide an opportunity for families to share literacy experiences with the class as these are sent back to the school to be displayed on the bulletin board.

3. Developmental

Scholastic Literacy Events gives school staff and families an opportunity to build trust and comfort with each other. The *Scholastic Literacy Events* kit is designed as a coaching or adult developmental tool for both staff and families. Families are encouraged to share prior knowledge with the group and build on that knowledge. Families can observe the modeling of an active read-aloud and practice that experience with small-group activities. School staff is given direction through the comprehensive planning guide, which is a fundamental tool to build teacher confidence.

4. Collaborative

Literacy events are conducted in a group to build a learning community or parent network. There are opportunities for peer learning during the small-group activities, where activity prompts encourage the sharing of knowledge and experiences. All activities include families and students working together collaboratively and then sharing with their group. School staff then has the opportunity to observe and honor families as active participants in student achievement.

5. Interactive

The activities and books included in each *Scholastic Literacy Events* kit are interactive and address varying learning styles. Families can experience literacy from various perspectives through the highlighted skill focus. A skill focus can be anything from writing to creative movement. In the school setting, families get an opportunity to test out these new skills. The Family Tip Sheets give families the opportunity to continue to practice and apply the new skills. In addition, each family acquires three books to build a home library and extend learning even further with additional literacy-boosting activities. The interactivity continues with the Families-as-Partners forms and classroom bulletin board.

B. Organizational Conditions

Organizational conditions are necessary for schools and districts to initiate and sustain a family engagement strategy. *Scholastic Literacy Events* is a tool that supports that strategy development and the necessary conditions:

1. Systemic

The activities and books included in each *Scholastic Literacy Events* kit support initiatives targeting school readiness, student achievement, and school turnaround. The kits are offered for Grades PreK–5 and therefore can support a school or district in its improvement plan. The educational goal or skill focus for each activity allows for student achievement to be the focal point. Multiple event offerings avoid the “one and done” approach and provide a continuum throughout the school year. In addition, there are opportunities to engage the community, which further supports the idea that family and community engagement is part of what schools and districts can do as partners in school improvement.

2. Integrated

Scholastic Literacy Events is linked to Scholastic professional development content, which helps ensure that it is integrated across all curriculum areas and the overall improvement strategy. The literacy event kits include a teacher planning guide as well as additional administrative tips to help build teaching capacity. Both provide school staff with logistics, strategies, and prompts to better partner and communicate with families. The consistency of the content helps maintain fidelity and allows for a systematic delivery throughout the school and across the district. The integration of engagement content can positively impact overall evaluation and assessment of school staff. *Scholastic Literacy Events* supports that integration.

3. Sustained

Scholastic Literacy Events is designed to be cost effective and accessible. As a resource it can be acquired on the teacher level or the school or district level. The literacy event kits are positioned to respond to multiple funding streams including district funds and Title I of ESEA.

Framework Policy and Program Goals Supported by *Scholastic Literacy Events*

The framework calls attention to the need to build and enhance the capacity of BOTH staff and families in the “4 C” areas. *Scholastic Literacy Events* incorporates this capacity building and provides both staff and families support.

1. Capabilities: Human Capital, Skills, and Knowledge

Scholastic Literacy Events gives school staff the opportunity to become knowledgeable about the families and the community by building trust with families through event activities and ongoing communication. The literacy event activities and take-home resources give families the resources to support student learning. Overall, the literacy events give families access to the school first as participants and then as educational advocates with a better understanding of policies and programs.

2. Connections: Important Relationships and Networks—Social Capital

Scholastic Literacy Events encourages the development of a learning community through peer and family-teacher relationships, as well as community engagement. Families have the opportunity to learn from each other in the small-group activities. School staff can develop important relationships with families as well as build the social capital by participating and observing the peer relationships. Community agencies and services can be increased using the literacy event experience as an opportunity to garner funders, volunteers, or in-kind contributions.

3. Cognition: Assumptions, Beliefs, and Worldview

Scholastic Literacy Events provides opportunities to broaden the role families play in student education. The literacy events also can increase the value of family engagement through activities that are linked to learning and can support overall school improvement. As a resource, *Scholastic Literacy Events* can become an integral part of a school’s efforts to improve teaching and learning.

4. Confidence: Individual Level of Self-Efficacy

Scholastic Literacy Events creates a welcoming environment for families through materials and activities. The activities and book collection reflects various cultures, ethnicities, and experiences, helping to create cross-cultural networks and increasing comfort levels for both families and school staff.

In Summary

Scholastic Literacy Events supports The Dual Capacity-Building Framework and its intended outcomes. Families should feel empowered and informed to participate in multiple roles to support their children's learning and overall school improvement. School and program staff can embrace and honor the strengths and knowledge of families and offer a welcoming environment, all contributing to student learning.

References and Resources

Beyond the Bake Sale (A. T. Henderson, K. L. Mapp, V. R. Johnson, & D. Davies, New York, NY: The New Press, 2007)

Effect of Title I Parent Involvement on Student Reading and Mathematics Achievement. (Shaver, A. V., & Walls, R. T., Journal of Research & Development in Education, 1998)

Organizing Schools for Improvement: Lessons from Chicago (Bryk, A. S., Sebring, P. B., & Allensworth, E., Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2009)

Partners in Education, A Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Austin, TX: SEDL in collaboration with the US Department of Education, 2014)

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