

Continuous Improvement

Technical Assistance Topic May 2026

Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement is not an add-on. It is essential to improve student outcomes. Education depends on a community wide effort of connection and impact. The same is true for school improvement. When families, students, and communities are meaningfully engaged, schools make better decisions and see stronger results for all students.

1. Engage Early

Include [families, students, staff, and community](#) before decisions are made.

Examples: community meetings, surveys, focus groups, [Dual Capacity Framework](#)

2. Use Input to Drive Decisions

[Integrate how feedback changed improvement plans or supports](#)

Example: "Based on survey data, we prioritized..."

3. Communicate Clearly & Often

Share plans, progress, and funding use in accessible ways.

Examples: newsletters, multilingual updates, family liaisons

4. Sustain Engagement

Keep stakeholders involved during implementation and updates. [Close the loop with your stakeholders so they know how their input informed the work.](#)

Examples: advisory groups, regular data reviews, communications

Remember to retain evidence of engagement. Keep agendas, sign-ins, survey results + summaries, communication samples, explanations of how input changed the plan. This is critical to compliance and monitoring for 1003, Title IA, Multilingual, Title I, Part C, and Title IV, Part A.

Top Tips

- Schedule engagement at varied times (include virtual options)
- Provide translation and accessible formats
- Partner with community organizations
- Assign a clear point of contact/project lead
- Align engagement across MTSS, comprehensive needs assessment (CNA), and SIP (don't duplicate work)

Concluding: You Must (State & Federal Expectations)

- Partner with stakeholders to develop and implement the SIP
- Include families, staff, [students](#), and community input
- [Provide ongoing opportunities for feedback](#)
- Show how input was used to make decisions

