

NCFL ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADVANCE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Goal to provide strategies to improve educational attainment

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (May 9, 2013) – The National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) and the U.S. Department of Education today announced a partnership to advance family engagement in education across the country.

The partnership will extend the Department of Education’s efforts on family engagement and NCFL’s track record of more than 20 years of providing tools and resources for educators and parents to create engaging lifelong learning opportunities for the entire family.

“Increasing family engagement is key to improving schools and neighborhoods across the country. Parents who play an active role in their children’s education – at home, at school and in the community – have a tremendous impact on factors like school readiness, motivation to learn, and study skills, as well as on high school graduation rates and college preparedness,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. “We hope this partnership with NCFL will provide much needed support for efforts that will increase family and community engagement in local schools and prepare our children for lifelong success.”

Throughout the yearlong partnership, the Department and NCFL will jointly develop and implement strategies to raise the awareness and understanding of effective family and community engagement in education, including how teachers and families can better collaborate to improve student engagement and learning. This will include:

- Convening community discussions on family engagement with educators, families and community leaders across the country.
- Identifying and compiling promising practices and program examples for effective family engagement in education, so schools can employ leading practices that work.
- Gathering feedback on family engagement frameworks from educators, parents, advocates, and others in the education community.

- Developing and disseminating resource materials to support family and community engagement in education. An example includes NCFL’s [Wonderopolis](#), an award-winning online learning community that engages classrooms and families in the wonder of discovery.

“We see too many communities struggling with how to create meaningful and effective family engagement initiatives,” said Sharon Darling, NCFL president & founder.

“Children need to learn in ways that are engaging and relevant to real-life situations, but educators and families tell us they need support to make this happen.

“Simultaneously, the nation’s policy-makers are awakening to the potential of learning beyond the school walls. Through years of experience and talking with parents across the country, we have the recipe for successful family engagement. “

ABOUT NCFL

The National Center for Family Literacy, founded in 1989 and based in Louisville, Ky., is the worldwide leader in family literacy. More than 1 million families have made positive educational and economic gains as a result of NCFL’s work, which includes training more than 150,000 teachers and thousands of volunteers. NCFL contributors include Toyota, Verizon Foundation, MetLife Foundation, Dollar General Literacy Foundation and Better World Books. Visit www.familieslearning.org for more information.

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