

Family and Community Engagement Ideas

Waterford Family Academy	Waterford CARES Framework	Waterford Upstart
Dads & doughnuts	Homework and after school clubs	Book fairs
Moms & muffins	Community tailgate party	Family picnic
Home visits	School spirit day / pep rally	Music programs
Family-led open house events	Track and field events	Talent shows
Partner with community organizations for clothing, food, or school supply drives	Project-based learning that includes community members as facilitators and evaluators of projects	Invite families and community organizations into the classroom
Family workshops	Weekly / daily folders sent home	Family orientations
Family literacy and math nights	Feedback boxes—onsite or electronic	Monthly newsletters and event calendar
Read-aloud volunteer program for classrooms; reading tutor program with local businesses and families	Family training on study skills, behavior management, how-to guides	Family service projects such as campus clean-up events
Student, teacher, family, and/or community organization of the month recognition	Create roles for family members on advisory committees, such as curriculum reviews or schedule planning	Onsite family resource center
Family open gym	Volunteer recognition	Field trip with family chaperones
Consistent class and school 2-way communication channels	Family service learning projects	Create a family engagement coordinator position
Invite family and community members in for career days	Provide transportation, daycare, and meals for school events	Develop a family handbook
Actively post on social media accounts preferred by families	Offer summer and break time meal distribution	Meet and greet events between school staff, community members, and families
Facebook Live virtual classroom	Family-Student Homework Toolbox	Coffee with the principal
Create blogs, forums, and websites	Create family pledge or compact	PTO / PTA
Family support groups	Community read-a-thon / learn-a-thon including books, audiobooks, podcasts, or documentaries	Publicize success
Host events for community organizations	Translate materials and have translators at events	Feature student and/or family at every event
Student art shows	Family technology nights	Offer virtual conferences and pep rallies
Family craft night or game night	Family surveys	Public library visits to get library cards
Host clothing or toy swaps	Publicly showcase services offered by the school	Send positive notes, emails, and phone calls to families
Hold workshops or family events in neighborhood churches, community centers, restaurants, etc.	Host a family scavenger hunt involving various businesses and community locations	Cultural night: invite families to share their cultural traditions, crafts, and knowledge with school staff and each other

Waterford.org is an early education nonprofit who believes all children deserve equitable access to positive early learning experiences to set them on a path to success in school and life. The organization partners with caring adults at school and at home to help children build confidence, curiosity, and a sense of belonging while providing individualized instruction to meet the needs of every child.

[Learn more at Waterford.org](https://www.waterford.org)