

# Family Engagement Leadership Institute

“The question is not whether to do family engagement but *how*.”

— Dr. Eyal Bergman, Unlocking the “How”: Designing Family Engagement Strategies that Lead to School Success

## Purpose

This nine-month Institute equips school principals and district administrators to lead family engagement strategies that directly impact student learning and well-being.

## Participants

- ★ School principals
  - ★ District administrators that oversee departments (e.g. CAOs, T1 Directors, HR Directors, etc.)
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- ★ Participants will:
    - » Join a network of Institute alumni ready to support them
    - » Receive differentiated support for their specific role
    - » Be able to request to have a member of their leadership team co-participate

## Led by Dr. Eyal Bergman

- ★ Former district leader for family engagement
- ★ Co-author of Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2) and Embracing a New Normal: Toward a More Liberatory Approach to Family Engagement
- ★ Author of Unlocking the “How”: Designing Family Engagement Strategies that Lead to School Success

To learn more, reach out to:  
[LeadershipInstitute@learningheroes.org](mailto:LeadershipInstitute@learningheroes.org)

## Key Components



### Virtual trainings

Four half-day group sessions at key points throughout the year



### Collaboration with Action Team

Apply and deepen the learning by building on existing initiatives. Existing teams can be used for this purpose (e.g. School Site Council, PTA leadership, etc.), or a new team can be created.

*Note: Action Team members also receive some training, but the primary participant is the leader*



### Coaching

Differentiated 1-on-1 and small group support provided by expert leaders and cohort peers



### National cohort experience

We facilitate regular collaboration and support amongst cohort peers, as well as Institute alumni and family engagement experts and scholars



### Artifacts of growth

Learning and progress is captured in simple ways throughout the year

Total time commitment averages 1-2 hours per week from September to May.

## Learning Modules

1

Understanding what works in family engagement

2

Applying what works in your context

3

Re-designing systems to promote what works

4

Celebration and planning for next year

## Outcomes

Participants will:

- ★ Understand what research and effective practice tells us about connecting family engagement to improvements in student learning and well-being.
- ★ Recognize the key leadership moves that improve family engagement in schools.
- ★ Clarify their school/district's family engagement strengths and challenges.
- ★ Develop and implement a family engagement Action Plan with safe-to-fail experiments in collaboration with their Action Teams.
- ★ Culminate the Institute with an equity-focused family engagement strategy for the next year that:
  - » Is integrated into existing priorities (e.g. instructional goals, school climate strategies, etc.)
  - » Involves new and/or re-purposed investments (e.g. increased staff time to partner with families, PD funding, etc.)
  - » Applies existing management tools (e.g. hiring practices, policies, etc.)

## Additional supports

We are expanding Institute offerings in response to requests from current participants. Please let us know if you'd like to learn more about:

- ★ Tailored onsite experiences & trainings
- ★ Professional development for teachers
- ★ Workshops on existing Learning Heroes tools & resources

## What participants are saying

“

I have pages of notes that have been very helpful in leading my team back in my building.

**Barb Lange**  
Principal, Storm Lake, Iowa

“

The biggest benefit of the Institute has been changing my thinking on family engagement... It has provided resources to look at family engagement from another lens and actually ensure that it's meaningful for parents.

**Selena Volcy**  
Principal, Miami, Florida

“

If you're in a situation now where you need to see more family engagement, you will learn so much that you can carry forward... it's a group of people that want to see you succeed, so you really have nothing to lose.

**Steven Ward**  
Principal, Minneapolis, Minnesota

★  
**LEARNING  
HEROES**

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