


# Family Engagement:

## Using Effective Practices With Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families in an Urban Setting

### HUNE's Mission

HUNE empowers and supports families of exceptional children and youth in obtaining a quality public education, so that the students will lead rich, active lives and attain future success.

Establishing collaborative partnerships with families, local education agencies, community agencies, and businesses is key in providing cultural and linguistic best practices for families of children and youth with disabilities. Based on HUNE's experience, and the input of our partners, we acknowledge that all service should be provided in the family's native language.



"I attend HUNE's training sessions because it's in Spanish and the presenter is from the same culture as me, so I'm able to understand it and I feel understood."

"Since the pandemic, the trainings have been virtual, and this allows me to be able to feel safe while participating."

"When I ask questions, I feel that they know where I'm coming from and I'm comfortable with asking, even if I speak differently."

## In addition, HUNE suggests the following strategies:

- Provide bilingual/bicultural staff members who are fluent in the language and culture that you are serving.
- Offer all information, meetings, and training opportunities in the families' native language.
- Remove barriers to maximize family engagement participation.
- Share information using a variety of modalities, such as social media and messaging apps.
- Empower families through partnering with them in the development of family engagement and family support activities.
- Provide opportunities for families from the same linguistic and cultural background to develop social networks with each other.
- Provide staff with ongoing professional development on cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Family engagement initiatives should be anchored in research based best practices.
- Provide up-to-date guidance and information about Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).
- Provide families with strategies for supporting their student in the home.



Do you know a student who is considering dropping out of school?

**HUNE can help!**

(215) 425-6203  
[www.huneinc.org](http://www.huneinc.org)

