

New Updates in Measuring Family Engagement in 21st CCLC Programs

2023-24 Academic Year

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University of Cincinnati Evaluation Services Center, 2023 

Background & Purpose

Family engagement is an important component of 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs to deepen the impact of out-of-school time activities.¹ The terms family/families refers to the parents, adult(s), or other primary caregiver(s) for a child's basic needs (e.g., feeding, safety). This includes biological parents, family members, and nonbiological parents such as adoptive, foster, stepparents, or in some instances, appointed caseworkers. One objective for all 21st CCLC programs in Ohio is to deliver family engagement strategies that support involvement in their child's education and learning. This document aims to summarize new updates to processes for systematically measuring the impact of 21st CCLC on families across Ohio.

Why this change?

Based on the most recent 21st CCLC annual report for Ohio (2021-22 school year), most programs (92%) are already surveying families to understand the program impact and satisfaction.² However, at the state level, current metrics are limited to only reporting the number of family engagement opportunities provided and success in meeting goals around this number.

Given the critical importance of family engagement within 21st CCLC, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce would like to better document and demonstrate the successes and impact of family engagement across the state.

What is being asked of 21st CCLC program managers? (23-24 school year)

For the 2023-24 school year, program managers and staff will be asked to support the state evaluation in two key areas: (1) gathering input from families and (2) participating in staff reporting processes.

Family Survey

How will programs gather input from families?

All 21st CCLC program staff will partner with their local evaluator to create a plan for measuring local impact of family engagement. In collaboration with the Ohio State University Family Engagement Center and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, the statewide evaluation team (UCESC) has identified 12 specific questions that all 21st CCLC staff must administer to families using a **family survey**. These questions are aligned with the 21APR outcomes and intend to help measure the extent to which family engagement helps programs meet their goals.

How should programs collect these family surveys?

Program staff and local evaluators will lead all site-based data collection efforts, including the logistics of where, how, and when surveys are administered. Programs are encouraged to incorporate or utilize existing data collection methods already in place (e.g., added to existing surveys) or they may be a stand-alone evaluation activity.

When should these family surveys be administered?

The purpose of the survey is to collect families' **summative perspectives** on the impact of family engagement activities throughout the school year. Therefore, it is recommended that the survey items be administered close to the end of programming, typically in spring 2024. Because some programs may operate on a schedule where students leave the program at the end of the first semester, it may be appropriate in some instances to administer the items in December, **but only if students will not be returning to the program in the spring.**

These items **are NOT** intended to be administered after every family engagement opportunity as an evaluation of the specific event. If desired, program managers could work with their local evaluator to design or implement this type of evaluation for continuous improvement.

How many families should participate in the survey?

There is no "magic" number of surveys to collect. In **2023-24 Goal Setting**, programs set goals for how many families they intended to reach as well as strategies for reaching them. Programs are encouraged to seek input from as many families and multiple members of the same family may participate in the survey as they may have different experiences with their levels of engagement. Programs are also encouraged to share the results of the family survey with families and how they are using these data to improve their family engagement efforts.

How will these data be reported for the statewide evaluation?

For the **2023-24 End-of-Year (EOY) report** (submitted in fall 2024), all 21st CCLC program managers will be asked to report a summary of total responses to the family survey for each program. Results will be reported *by survey item*. For each of the 12 items, **programs will report the number of families who selected each individual response** (strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree). Programs will also provide the **total number of surveys distributed and the total number of surveys completed** (partially or in full).

The following table provides an example of how data will be submitted within EOY reporting.

Survey Item	In the boxes below, enter the number of families who selected each response				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. I feel better prepared to support my child's learning because the program staff answered families' questions about what children were learning.					
2. I feel better prepared to support my child's learning because the program staff listened to families' concerns about children's progress.					

For extra support: To support 21st CCLC program staff and/or local evaluators in collecting and managing these survey responses, a **Family Engagement Tracking Tool** is provided as a resource. This tool may be helpful for managing and organizing these data as they are collected. You **do not** have to use this tool and you **will not** be asked to submit it within EOY reporting. However, programs may find this tool useful as it is set up to record the data in exactly the way that you will be asked to report within the 23-24 EOY Reporting.

When will these data be reported?

These data will be submitted during the **2023-24 EOY reporting** submission in fall 2024.

What about summer programming?

For 2023-24, summer programming has already occurred during summer 2023 so data from families of students who only participated in summer programming are not expected for **2023-24 EOY reporting**.

What are the survey items for the family survey?

The following table provides the 12 items to be administered to all families, aligned with 21APR outcomes for 21st CCLC programs.

Domain	Family Survey Items
Learning (GPRA 1, 2, 5)	I feel better prepared to support my child's learning because the program staff...
	1. answered families' questions about what children were learning.
	2. listened to families' concerns about children's progress.
	3. incorporated family ideas into the learning content of the program.
Attendance (GPRA 3)	4. provided families with suggestions/activities to try at home to support learning.
	I feel better prepared to support my child's attendance during the school day because the program staff...
	5. answered families' questions about attendance policies.
	6. listened to families' concerns about how to support positive attendance.
Behavior (GPRA 4)	7. incorporated family ideas into attendance programming at the center.
	8. provided families with strategies to try at home to support positive attendance.
	I feel better prepared to support my child's behavior because the program staff...
	9. answered families' questions about behavior policies.
	10. listened to families' concerns about how to support positive behavior.
	11. incorporated family ideas into the positive behavior systems of the program.
	12. provided families with suggestions/activities to try at home to support positive behavior.

Staff Survey

What is the Staff Survey?

In spring 2024, UCESC will administer a survey, inviting all existing 21st CCLC staff (at all levels) to provide input on their engagement with families. This is an important supplement to the Family Survey because understanding the skills, knowledge, and experiences that educators have in connecting with families through 21st CCLC can help to identify professional learning opportunities that could enhance their impact.³

What will be expected of 21st CCLC program managers?

In spring 2024, all 21st CCLC program managers and site staff will receive a link from the statewide evaluation team (UCESC) to participate in a Staff Survey. Program managers will be asked to communicate with their staff about the importance of this survey for the statewide evaluation and encourage staff to participate.

What will be in the Staff Survey?

The Staff Survey items will align with the items in the Family Survey, asking staff to share their perceptions of how the 21st CCLC programs' family engagement helped to achieve the programs' goals and outcomes. The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete.

Who will be receiving the Staff Survey?

The survey will be administered to all program staff who have engaged with families during programming.

When will program staff receive the Staff Survey?

The survey will be emailed directly from the statewide evaluation team (email will be from CECHQualtrics) in mid-April. Program staff will have approximately four weeks to submit their responses prior to the end of the 2023-24 academic year.

Can local evaluators administer this survey and/or have access to the results?

We recognize that local evaluators may be surveying program staff already as part of their local evaluation. This survey will be administered separately as a supplement to the Family Survey to hopefully encourage high response rates from staff. Survey items will be made available to programs in the spring.

How will results be analyzed and reported?

UCESC will analyze and report key findings based on responses. These data will not be reported on at the individual/program level or reported individually to the Department, rather it will be used to better capture statewide context of family engagement and identify future professional development and continuous quality improvement efforts of 21st CCLCs.

External Sources

- ¹ Pompa, (2013). Family involvement as a critical element of quality expanded learning opportunities. Expanding Minds and Opportunities: Leveraging the Power of afterschool and summer learning for student success. The Expanded Learning & Afterschool Project. <https://www.expandinglearning.org/expandingminds>
- ² Holton, J., Stacy, S. T., Turner. S. T., & Schutzman, C. (2023, April). Ohio 21st Century Community Learning Center: 2021-22 annual report. Cincinnati, Ohio: Evaluation Services Center, University of Cincinnati. <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Federal-Programs/Programs/21st-Century>
- ³ Bachman, H. F. (2023). Family engagement efficacy beliefs of educators: Validating the interpretation and use of a new measure (Doctoral dissertation, The Ohio State University).

The University of Cincinnati Evaluation Services Center (UCESC) currently serves as the statewide evaluator for Ohio's 21st Century Community Learning Center program and has served as an independent evaluator for hundreds of projects in Ohio and nationally since its founding in 1996. The UCESC team of specialists has expertise in statistics, measurement, assessment, and qualitative research methods within the fields of education and public health.



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(513) 556-3900



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