

Why family engagement?

Springboard sets ambitious reading growth goals for all of our scholars. To reach these goals in a short period of time, at-home reading coaching is essential. It supplements the classroom literacy instruction and without that support at home, this level of growth wouldn't be possible. Engaging families is the key to our success. Building and maintaining family partnerships is a critical necessity and is prioritized throughout all components of Springboard.

Through years of working with families, we've learned teachers and parents skillsets they can share with each other. Teachers are the experts on teaching—they are able to share strategies with parents to move their child forward academically. Parents are the experts on their children—they are uniquely able to deliver one-on-one instruction to their child while sharing observations back with the teacher. In a true partnership, teachers and parents share their skillsets to maximize student reading growth.

At Springboard, we believe:

- All families **have dreams and strengths; we emphasize their assets.**
- **Parents learn ways to help their children** when they're provided with opportunity and support.
- **Parents have important information and perspectives** about their children that are needed by teachers.
- **Schools and families influence each other.**
- **A sincere problem solving model is necessary** – we target solutions and assume best intentions from both schools and families.

In this section you'll learn more about Springboard's family engagement practices, including home visits, family workshops, and the Learning Celebration.

Family engagement goals

The following are the performance targets that we use to measure the strength of our family engagement. Each site has a unique community and should work as a team to reach their goals.

Home visits goal: 80% completion¹

Home visits lay the foundation for family-teacher relationships and communication. Home visits can begin early—as soon as teachers and families can align their schedules. Home visits must be tracked in Slinky in addition to any data systems or paperwork required by the site. It is best if teachers do the home visits for the children in their class, but other teachers, Site Leaders, or

¹ Not all sites opt to do home visits or use daily communication folders. All sites should implement strategies to build trust and maintain effective communication with families.

Family Engagement Coordinators may do visits if needed. To learn more about Home Visits, read the “Home visits overview.”

Family workshops goal: 90%+ attendance

Family workshops are community events in which family members learn best practices for coaching their child in reading. During the workshops, adults and children have time to practice the skill while Springboard Teachers check in individually with each adult to discuss goals, action plans, and answer any questions. Some of the incentives that can be earned at the end of the program are dependent on family partner attendance at workshops. Site Leaders and Operations Leads or Family Engagement Coordinators help teachers prepare for workshops, set up and conduct make-up sessions, and track attendance in Slinky. You can learn more about family workshops and make-up workshops by turning to “family workshops” and “Make-up workshops guide and expectations.”



Student attendance goal: 80% daily student attendance

One easy way families can engage in programming is to send their student to Springboard! Any day a student is absent, contact their family. Springboard does not remove students from programming due to absence, though some sites do have attendance policies. Attendance must be tracked in Slinky in addition to any data systems required by the site.

Increasing family involvement at the early grades predicts literacy achievement and, most importantly, is a stronger indicator for literacy development than family income, maternal level of education, and ethnicity. (Dearing et al. 2006)