



WVFEC

Grand Families Outreach Becomes County Priority

Lincoln County Schools

Summary

Lincoln County Schools recognize the importance of involving grand families in education. They are working to close the gap on family engagement by embedding a trained team member in each school to be a liaison for families.

Lincoln County Schools



Hamlin, Lincoln County



7 Schools



2,735 Students



100% Students on Free or Reduced Lunch



Lincoln County Schools will make an effective difference in our community by providing opportunities to maximize student achievement.



[Website URL](#)

CHALLENGES



Challenges in Lincoln County span from working to involve and educate grand families, navigating increasing opioid use in caregivers, to reaching difficult families and overcoming physical and geographic barriers. Every family has a different situation and establishing the best way to reach them can be a consistent challenge. Funding restraints adds to the aligned obstacles.



Challenge #1

Physical limitations are difficult for some grand families due to age and health.



Challenge #2

There is generational stigma for some students whose parents/caregivers are perceived to not care or are anxious in a school setting. Staff are seeing an increasing number of parents/caregivers using opioids and are hesitant to get involved.



Challenge #3

Transportation is a struggle for families. Lincoln County is a rural setting and a majority of parents and caregivers work outside of the community.

SOLUTIONS



Lincoln County has worked to increased volunteer trainings, getting parents/caregivers to the school to feel more comfortable and welcomed. Community Contact roles at each school are part-time supporters who plan family nights and are the lead contact at each location. Facilitators are working closely with the bus garage to plan special routes and offer free bus tickets on parent/caregiver nights.

Top Priorities Related to Family Engagement



Parent/Caregiver & Grand Families Involvement



Training More Volunteers



Providing Educational Activities



ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



Key Initiatives

Connecting with grand families has become a priority in Lincoln County. Sue Burton, Family Engagement Facilitator sees a direct correlation between student success and a family's level of engagement. They have increased volunteer professional learning opportunities and established community contacts in each school to help with quarterly family engagement events. Events include: Math Night, Reading Night, Technology Night, and a High School Meet & Treat, as well as a day time event specific for grandparents.



Key Stakeholders Engaged

- Parents/ Grand families
- Family Engagement Coordinator
- Community Contacts and Volunteers

Lessons Learned

By increasing volunteer professional learning, an increase in families and grand families that engaged with their child's school has occurred as they feel more comfortable at the school and can impact student learning success. Providing alternative transportation continues to be challenging, but an example of the importance of identifying and addressing current obstacles.

OUTCOMES



1

Quantitative Impact

Community Contacts at each of the seven schools are part-time workers who help plan and facilitate engagement events. These parents/caregivers add an extra level of school support.

2

Qualitative Impact

The more engaged parents, grand families and caregivers are with the school, the more successful students can be.

3

Unexpected Outcomes

Two students were within a few months of graduating and close to dropping out when the school discovered that they didn't have money for a cap and gown. The Community Contact worked with the students to purchase cap and gowns, yearbooks and graduation announcements.

CONCLUSION



Grand families and all caregivers are vital to successful educational outcomes. They can directly impact the future of their students. Each student's situation is different but working to get families engaged with the school makes all the difference.

Grand Families Event

Lincoln County hosted a Grand Families Event that featured lunch, speakers, resources fair, and incentives for participation.



Activity Goal

Educate grand families on the importance of their role in their student's education and provide resources.

Key Actions

- Provide education on I-Pads, website use, and e-mail.
- Connect with school and community contact for additional support.
- Educate grandfamilies on resources available to them.



Activity Outcomes

Grand Families were able to form a relationship with school contacts and receive personalized support.

