



Family Engagement

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) leads the Statewide Family Engagement Center (SFEC) grant in Nebraska. In collaboration with local school districts, NCFL is implementing its two generation, four-component model of family literacy across the state of Nebraska as it helps to build a family engagement ecosystem with exemplar sites that spans the State.

Family Literacy model demonstration sites were added in years 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the grant, with 3 schools having come on board every year and receiving 3 years of funding to operate family literacy sites. Regarding selection of sites, there is a special focus on school districts with higher rates of English Language Learners (ELL) and higher rates of free/reduced lunch students across rural, urban, and suburban districts.

Another focus of the grant is NCFL's professional development and training workshops that broaden the reach of the SFEC work, impacting families across the entire state as well as the language and literacy curriculum and pedagogy within school districts. Through a collaborative effort by NCFL and local partners, educators are connecting to online and inperson professional development opportunities. This networked approach extends access to training for educators, supporting their work to provide optimal learning environments that engage and support families across Nebraska communities.

Highlights:

- NCFL implemented family literacy sites in twelve (12) school districts in Nebraska during the first four (4) years of the grant. For a list of sites, visit: <http://www.nebraskasfec.com/our-sites.html>
- NCFL has provided in-person and virtually workshops for parents, teachers, and educational stakeholders for multiple years since the commencement of the SFEC grant. For view many of these past training sessions, visit: <http://www.nebraskasfec.com/webinars.html>
- NCFL has implemented a resource center online for both parents and educators with webinars, toolkits, research, and free digital books at www.nebraskasfec.com.

Next steps:

The NCFL is currently pursuing a 5-year renewal for the SFEC grant in Nebraska. The initial 5-year span is October 2018 to September 2023, so the second 5-year grant would span October 2023 to September 2028. NCFL

continues to work closely with the Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to both successfully complete the initial 5-year grant and also to design and apply for the second 5-year grant that NCFL is hoping to obtain from the U.S. Department of Education.

