
FAMILY LITERACY NIGHTS

Metropolitan Regional Career & Technical Center

Providence, Rhode Island

The Action Team for Partnerships implemented a program to support the school improvement goal of building family literacy skills. In order to develop a program aligned with the families' needs and interests, the team surveyed families about what they wanted to learn. Next, through a partnership with Brown University, the team recruited college students to teach the classes.

The team also asked a local adult literacy agency to assist in designing the program. For parents, the program offered English as a Second Language (ESL), Spanish for English Speaking Adults, and computer skills. For students, the program offered Spanish, computer skills, homework help, and a playroom for young children. Classes were held twice per week for 8 weeks in the fall and in the spring.

Families learned about the classes through the school and a community agency. The majority of the cost was spent on food to provide full meals to make it easier for families to attend. The other expenses were for consultants, tutors, and supplies.

The results of the program were very positive. A mid-year reflection enabled the team to learn from the fall session in order to improve the spring session. Families gained new skills and connected with other parents. Some of the school's teachers took the Spanish class to learn greetings and vocabulary for basic-level conversations with Hispanic families. Students earned extra credit for attending the language class.

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