

Parent Involvement vs. Parent Engagement

Leslie Bloss, SCDE
Emily Caskey, Richland 2

ESSA Academy 2026



Agenda

- **Parent Engagement & Support vs. Parent Involvement**
- **Spotlight: Stories of Success from Richland 2**
- **What's working for you?**



What is family engagement?

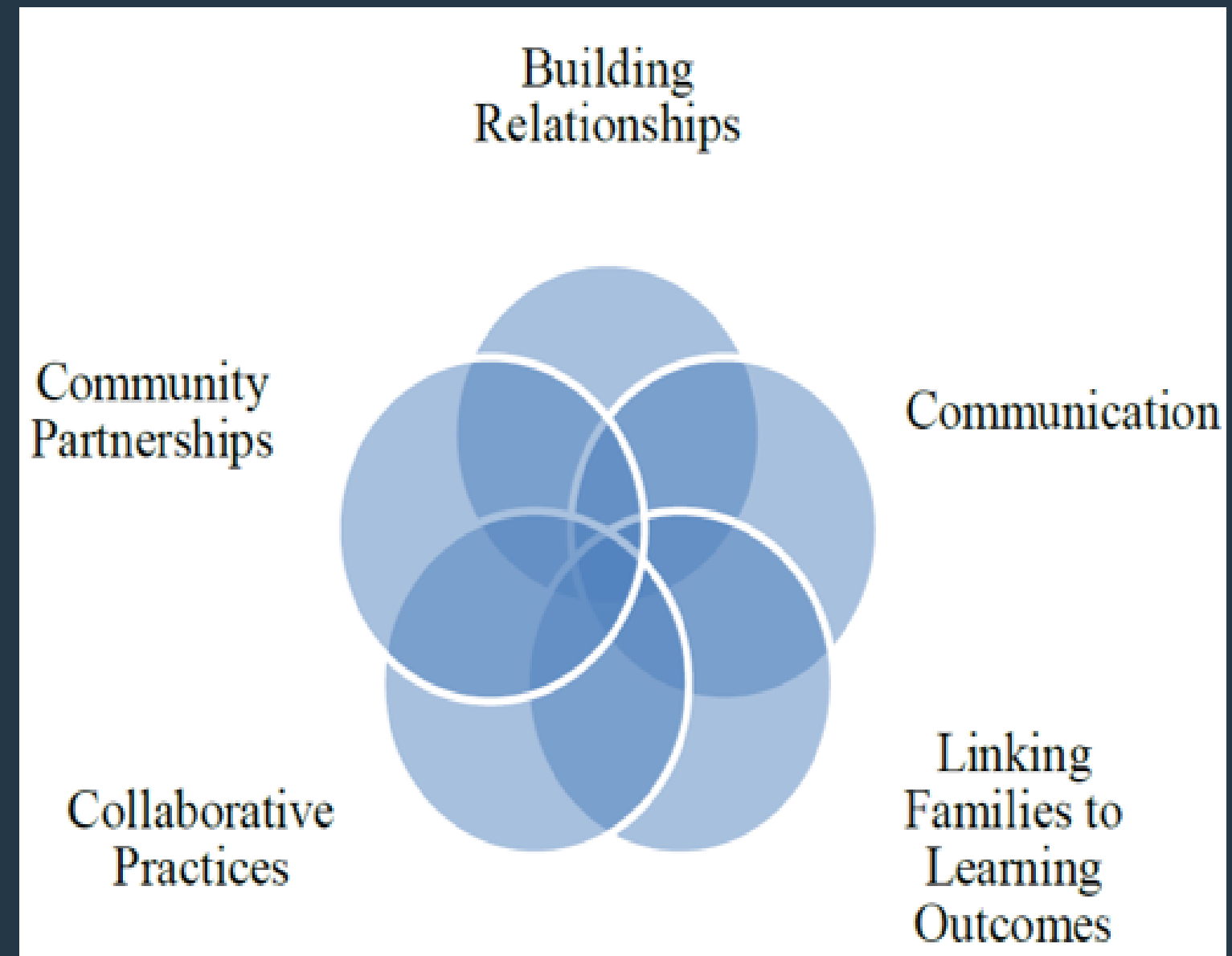
The SCDE defines family engagement as when, “[f]amilies are actively involved in the learning and development of all students to become college- and career-ready.”

South Carolina Family
Engagement K-12
Framework



Scan QR code
to read the full
document.

SC Family Engagement K-12 Framework Strategies for Success





Parent Involvement vs. Parent Engagement



Let's look at the definitions...



Parent Involvement refers to the actions parents take to support their child's education, such as attending parent-teacher conferences, volunteering at school events, and helping with homework. It is often seen as a more passive role where parents participate in activities predetermined by the school.

Parent Engagement goes beyond mere involvement. It involves parents actively collaborating with educators in decision-making processes, advocating for school improvements, and co-planning educational strategies. Engagement is characterized by a partnership between parents and schools, where parents' insights and contributions are valued.



Differences in the Nature of Participation

Parent Involvement: Parents participate in activities set by the school, such as volunteering or attending meetings. Their role is often reactive, responding to school initiatives.

Key Point: Involvement is important, and it is often event-based and directed by the school.

Parent Engagement: Parents take an active role in shaping their child's educational experience, contributing ideas, and participating in decision-making processes.

Key Point: Engagement is about shared leadership and two-way communication. Families' voices and experiences help shape the school's work.

Differences in the Impact on Student Success

Parent Involvement: While beneficial, involvement alone may not significantly impact student outcomes. It often leads to meeting school goals but does not foster deeper connections.

Parent Engagement: Research indicates that engaged parents can lead to better academic performance, higher attendance rates, and improved social skills. Engagement fosters a stronger bond between parents and schools, enhancing the overall experience for students.



Collaboration vs. Compliance

Parent Involvement: This is often about compliance with school expectations, where parents do what is asked of them.

Parent Engagement: This is about collaboration, where parents and educators work together to set goals and develop strategies that benefit students.



Conclusion

Both parent involvement and engagement are crucial for promoting student success, but parent engagement tends to have a more profound impact due to its collaborative nature.

Schools that foster strong partnerships with parents through engagement can create more supportive and effective education environments, ultimately benefiting students' academic and personal development.



Resources

Learning Village – What is the difference between Parental involvement and Parental engagement?

One Place – Parental Involvement Vs. Parental Engagement: What You Need to Know

Headstart – Parent Involvement and Family Engagement for Early Childhood Professionals

Harvard – Effective Family Engagement Starts with Trust

Harvard – Welcoming Families From Day 1

Family-School Relationships Surveys

District wide Strategies for Meaningful Family Engagement



Family Involvement vs. Engagement

Partnerships between families and educators help boost outcomes for students. Authentically *engaging* families looks and feels different than simply involving them. *Family engagement* is associated with even better results for children and families.



Family Involvement

- Doing “to”
- Telling families about practices
- Ex.- Fundraisers, pizza dinners, BINGO nights
- School staff are viewed as the experts.
- School leads with its mouth, identifying projects, needs, and goals and then telling families how they can contribute.
- Involvement takes place in school buildings, not in homes & community settings.

Connecting with Families

- Improves reading & math outcomes
- Families are more confident advocates & more engaged in their children’s learning.
- Children of engaged families have higher attendance, social skills & lower aggressive behaviors.

Doing “with”

- Authentic co-creation

- Ex.- including family members on school teams as equal members

- May require a mindset shift; there are many experts.
- Based on mutual respect, trust, open communication, and inclusion in decision making
- School leads with its ears, listening to what families think, dream, and worry about.

Family Engagement



District Spotlight

Richland 2 School District



Richland School District Two

**From Involvement to
Engagement:
Strengthening Partnerships
in Richland Two**



Why Involvement + Engagement Matter

Richland School District Two

Title I Schools:

- 13 Elementary Schools
- 2 Middle Schools
- 1 High School
- Center for Child Development

BY THE NUMBERS

4,425 EMPLOYEES

\$359.6 M
2024-
2025 BUDGET

28,404 STUDENTS



Why Involvement + Engagement Matter

Richland School District

Two

Title I Schools:

- **13 Elementary Schools**
- **2 Middle Schools**
- **1 High School**
- **Center for Child Development**

20 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

7 MIDDLE SCHOOLS

5 HIGH SCHOOLS

4 MAGNET CENTERS

1 CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

R2 VIRTUAL SCHOOL

RICHLAND TWO INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION

W. R. ROGERS CENTER (ADULT AND
CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER)

63% BLACK

14.2% WHITE

13.5% HISPANIC

6.7% OTHER ETHNICITIES

2.6% ASIAN



Why Involvement + Engagement Matter

Richland School District Two

Title I Schools:

- 13 Elementary Schools
- 2 Middle Schools
- 1 High School
- Center for Child Development



TOP 4 LANGUAGES SPOKEN

1. ENGLISH
2. SPANISH
3. VIETNAMESE
4. CHINESE MANDARIN

56 TOTAL LANGUAGES
SPOKEN BY STUDENTS

31 NATIONALLY CERTIFIED MAGNETS INCLUDING 15
DEMONSTRATION MAGNET SCHOOLS



Why Involvement + Engagement Matter

Richland School District Two

Title I Schools:

- 13 Elementary Schools
- 2 Middle Schools
- 1 High School
- Center for Child Development



12.7% MILITARY CONNECTED

12.4% STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN GIFTED AND TALENTED

86.7% GRADUATION RATE

1,288 DUAL ENROLLMENT STUDENTS



Why Involvement + Engagement Matter

- Parent involvement (school-driven participation) + parent engagement (shared responsibility) work best together.
- When combined, they move us beyond compliance → to authentic collaboration that drives student, family and school success.
- But.....This is easier said than done!



Family Engagement & Involvement in Richland Two

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
FOREST LAKE'S

CURRICULUM NIGHT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
TWO SESSIONS:
5:00-5:45 AND 6:00-6:45

***5:45-6:00 TITLE 1 INFORMATION MEETING*
(PERFORMANCE SPACE)**

FOREST LAKE SCHOOL-AGED
STUDENTS WILL ENJOY ACTIVITIES
IN THE GYM WHILE PARENTS VISIT
CLASSROOMS TO MEET WITH
TEACHERS.

****FREE ALL BEEF HOT DOG MEALS
TO TAKE HOME!****
SPONSORED BY THE FOREST LAKE
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

****FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)****

PARENT & TEACHER COLLABORATION = MISSION POSSIBLE



**ESTÁS
INVITADO**

A LA ESCUELA PRIMARIA FOREST LAKE

**DE REGRESO A LA ESCUELA
CONOCER Y SALUDAR**

**1 DE AGOSTO DE 2025
5:00-6:30 PM**

**CONOZCA A SUS MAESTROS, ENTREGA
DE ÚTILES ESCOLARES, INFORMACIÓN
DEL PROGRAMA DESPUÉS DE LA
ESCUELA, TRANSPORTE EN AUTOBÚS,
ASISTENCIA PARA LA INSCRIPCIÓN**



Family Engagement & Involvement in Richland Two

DOLPHIN PARENT-KINDER
CONNECTIONS

KINDERGARDEN
PARENT
WORKSHOP



THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER
11
at 6 PM

A Parent's Meeting for Kindergarten
Success

Connect with other parents and learn from experts how to support your child's educational growth! As parents, we all want the best for our children.

✓

Gain valuable school-to-home strategies and knowledge

✓

Learn about helpful resources available to you and your child

✓

Discover behavior tips for success at home and in school

✓

Get your questions answered by education experts

✓

Meet and connect with other kindergarten parents

A light dinner will be served

Lynn Thomas, Parent Educator
803-699-2900 x83305
lthomas@richland2.org





Family Involvement & Volunteer Interest Survey

We encourage and welcome family involvement at Lonnie B. Nelson! Please complete this short form to let us know how you would like to help.

If you need more information on the different groups/organizations mentioned, please contact the school.

**Each parent/guardian interested should complete a separate form.

ecaskey@richland2.org [Switch account](#)

 Not shared

* Indicates required question

Parent/Guardian email address *

Your answer

ThePhoto by PhotoAuthor is licensed under CCYYSA.

Family Engagement & Involvement in Richland Two

🗨️ Talk It Up Tuesday! 🗨️

A monthly parent information series

📅 **First Session:** Tuesday, September 2

🕒 **Time:** 8:30 a.m. -9:00 a.m.

💻 **Where:** Virtual ~Talk It Up Tuesday

Tuesday, September 2 · 8:30 a.m - 9:00 a.m.

Time zone: America/New_York

Video call link: Talk It Up Tuesday

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/spi-quby-hat>

Or dial: (US) +1 631-600-3695 PIN: 509 892 463#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/spi-quby-hat?pin=1869337208746>

Tuesday, September 2 · 8:30 – 9:00am

Time zone: America/New_York

👉 Join us each month to stay informed about **academic expectations, resources, and ways to support your student at home.**

💬 Parents will also have a chance to complete a survey to share topics they want discussed and choose future sessions!

Sandlapper CSIS | Computer Science Immersion School
Elementary

STAR PARENTS, NEED HELP WITH MATH?
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 10

SCAN TO JOIN
THE GOOGLE MEET:

VIRTUAL SESSIONS
5:30-5:45 K
5:45-6:00 1ST
6:00-6:15 2ND
6:15-6:30 3RD
6:30-6:45 4TH
6:45-7:00 5TH

PARENTS OF K-5TH STUDENTS
If you have questions or want a better understanding of the new Eureka math curriculum to help your child build stronger math skills, join our experienced math coach Dr. Cleckley during our FREE monthly virtual group sessions.



Family Engagement & Involvement in Richland Two



Longleaf Middle School



**Are You Ready
for
SC READY?**

**Parent Engagement
MEETING**



April 1, 2025
6pm - 7pm
Virtual

#COMMITTED

**JOSEPH KEELS ELEMENTARY
RESOURCE ROUND-UP**



BOOTS ON THE GROUND



PARENT UNIVERSITY

THANKING OUR PARENTS FOR EVERYTHING THAT
THEY 'VE DONE THIS SCHOOL YEAR

MUSIC • FOOD • RESOURCES • LINE DANCING

24 APRIL | 6:00 PM
7500 SPRINGCREST DRIVE COLUMBIA, SC
29223

CONTACT INFORMATION:
MS. LATISHA MCCANIC (803) 736-8754



Involvement and Engagement

Shifting Parent & Family Engagement in R2

- **Priorities are driven by data and compliance expectations**
- **Redefine the Language: RSD2's FACE Division and Title I team are working together to move away from “check the box” involvement to meaningful, two-way engagement. This pushes the pedal to move (above and beyond) past compliance.**



Building Capacity with FACE in R2 2025- 2026

Laying the Foundation: Beginning to build FACE with fidelity across our schools.

Collaborative Partnership: Relying on each other for ideas, support, and connections.

Early Progress: Shared resources and school-based support.

Ongoing Growth: Using data and feedback to shape next steps together.



"Our collaborative work with FACE is still developing, but it's laying the foundation for consistent, sustainable family engagement across our district."



Involvement and Engagement: HOW?

Collecting Feedback from Families

- **ALL Title I schools share the FACE feedback form after EVERY family involvement and/or engagement event.**
- **Title I Principals, designees, and Parent Educators review feedback regularly**
- **Schools are using feedback for continuous**

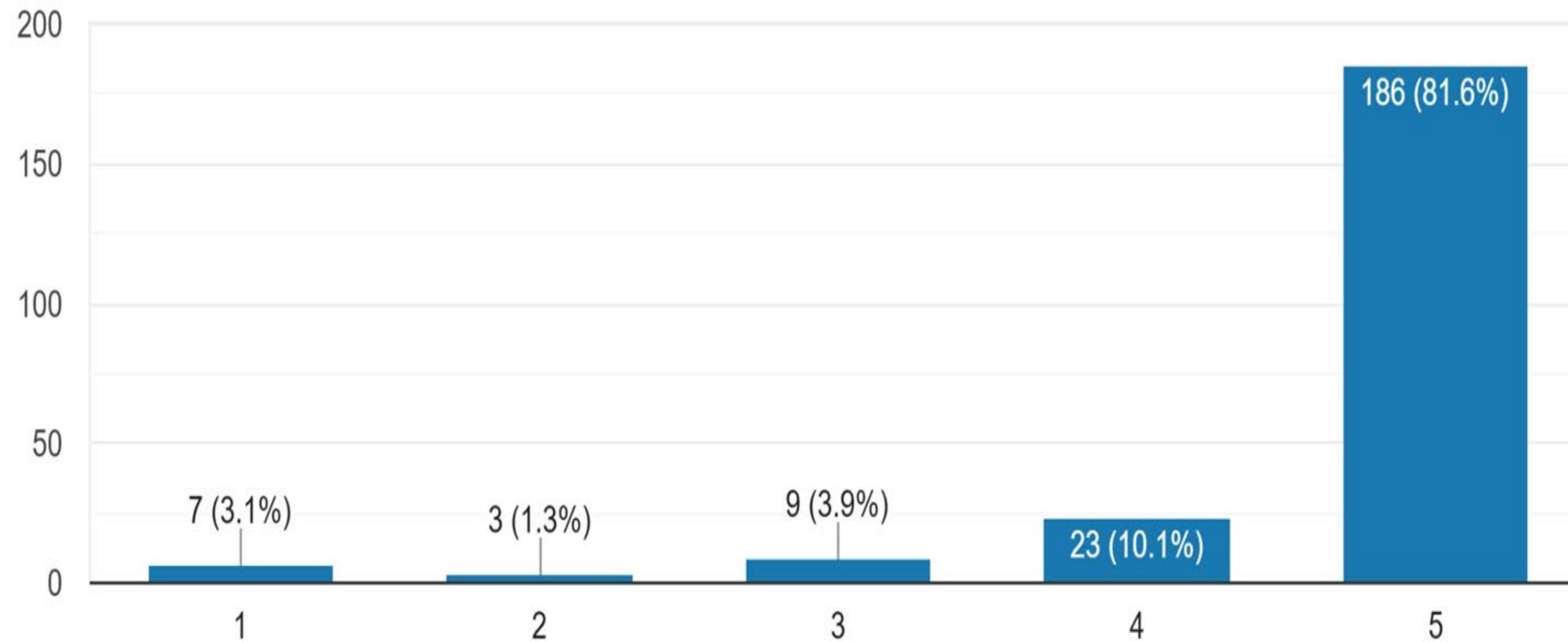


The image shows a digital feedback form titled "FACE" (Family and Community Engagement) for Richland School District Two. The form is titled "RSD2 Family and Community Engagement Event: Feedback Form" and includes a brief description: "This form will collect feedback from attendees following Family and Community Engagement events at your Title I School." A legend indicates that an asterisk (*) denotes a required question. The form contains two visible sections: an "Email *" field with a placeholder "Your email" and a "Which school did you attend for this event? *" field with a dropdown arrow.

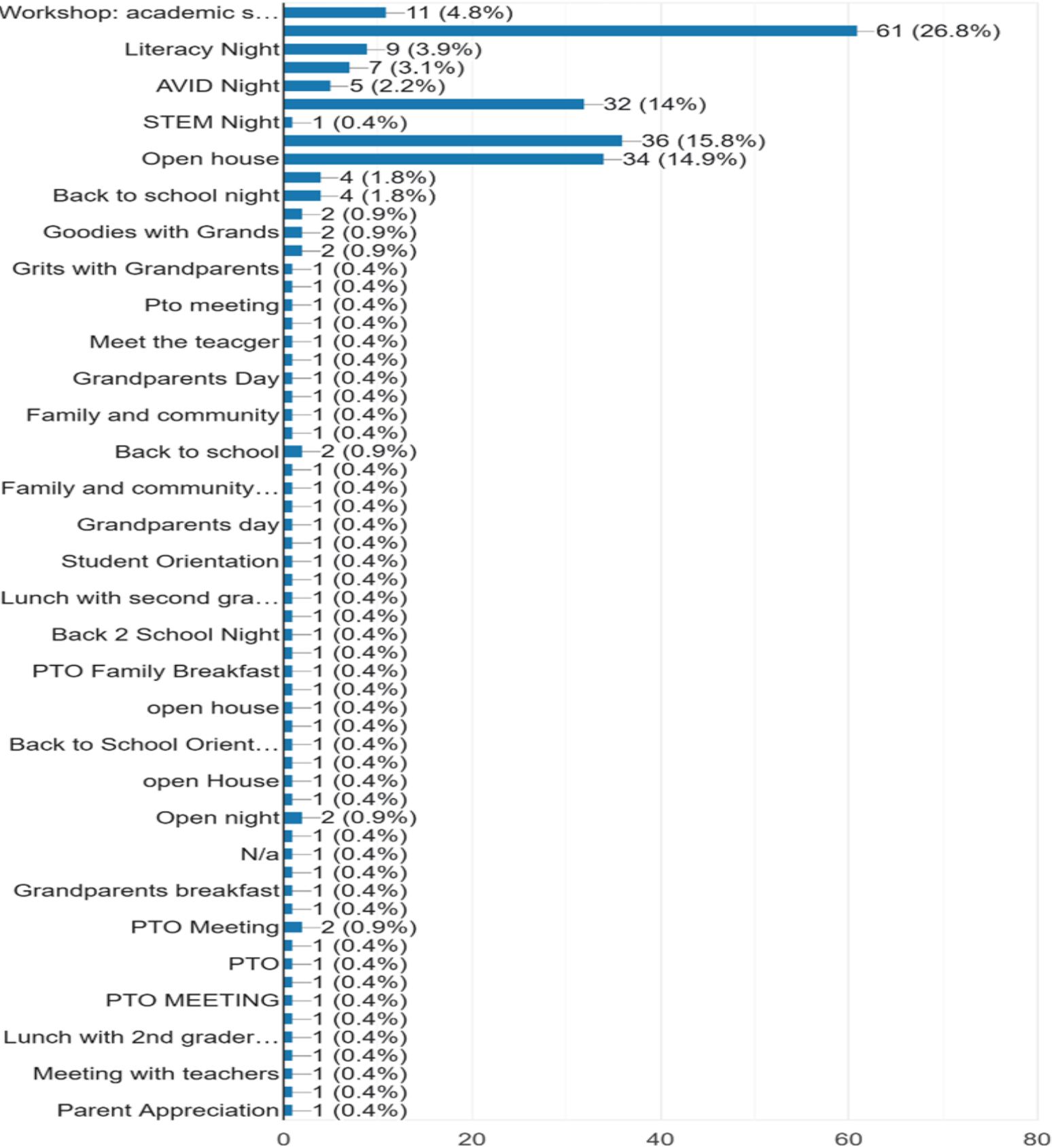


On a scale of 1 to 5 how helpful was this event in supporting your student's educational achievement and success?

228 responses



What type of event did you attend?
228 responses





What did you find most valuable about this event?

228 responses

- All information that was shared
- Being able to talk about my child’s progress and how to partner with the school.
- Updated information
- Meeting& brief conversation with teacher
- Meeting the teacher and getting a car rider pass
- Getting to see my child’s classroom
- Got to see my child in his environment
- Literacy night
- Building relationship with teacher



What topics or activities would you like to see in future family engagement events?

228 responses

More clubs

None, all areas was covered

Class lessons

I feel like Jackson Creek always does a great job with family events and activities. Not really much more they can do, in my opinion.

Maybe play an interactive game with teacher and student(s).

More readily available avenues for parent involvement.

Group parent sessions learning from tge teachers and hearing all parents advice

N/A. Not much I can think of at the moment! Everything was addressed and pretty much there.

More opportunities to spend time with my child in the school setting



How can we improve future family engagement events to better support you and your child?

228 responses

Everything was great.

This format was much more helpful than the initial meet the teacher night. Being able to have face to face time in the actual classroom was less chaotic and far more helpful.

No ideas at this time

Inviting the parents to class once or twice a year to learn too.

Nothing everything was great!

Continue to provide means of effective communication

Maybe have a monitor for kids while parents are in the meeting so that they aren't disturb the talkers.

More information more activities i coule have just done the PTC over the phone



Can Involvement and Engagement Coexist?

YES! Parent Involvement and Parent Engagement CAN and should be implemented collaboratively. They are not competing ideas. Involvement helps families feel connected to the school; engagement invites them into shared responsibility for student success!



Family Engagement in Richland Two



PARENT UNIVERSITY

INTEREST SURVEY

Parent University Interest Survey

Help me plan this year's Parent University workshops—events designed to help you support your child's success. Please share your ideas so we can offer topics and times that work best for you.

Ayúdenme a planificar los talleres de la Universidad de Padres de este año: eventos diseñados para apoyar el éxito de sus hijos. Comparta sus ideas para que podamos ofrecerles los temas y horarios que mejor se adapten a sus necesidades.

Your email will be recorded when you submit this form

* Indicates required question

What topics would you be interested in? (Check all that apply)



YOU'RE INVITED TO SANDLAPPER'S PARENT STRATEGY NIGHT & DINNER

Enjoy a round table discussion focused on understanding & navigating children's behaviors & academics. This event will be an open space to share ideas, strategies, and challenges while building a network of parents with similar experiences.

RSVP

Feb. 4th at 6pm

Sandlapper CSIS
Elementary

RSVP by Jan. 31, 2025 at tinyurl.com/22gvx63z

Need more info? Contact Lynn Thomas, Parent Educator
803-691-4045 x29070 lthomas@richland2.org



Family Engagement & Involvement in Richland Two

Talk It Up Tuesday Survey

B *I* U ↗ ✕

We are excited to launch *Talk It Up Tuesday's*, a monthly parent information series beginning **Tuesday, September 16th at 8:30 a.m. (virtual)**. Your feedback will help us plan meaningful sessions that meet your family's needs.

Email ^{*}

Valid email

This form is collecting emails. [Change settings](#)

Which topics would you like us to cover during Talk It Up Tuesday's? ^{*}

☐ Helping my child with homework/study skills

☐ Building my child's confidence and self-esteem

☐ Social-emotional learning (helping my child manage feelings, friendships, etc.)

☐



Bookman Road Elementary School
"WE ARE BEACONS, WHO LIGHT THE WAY IN PERSONAL CHARACTER, ACADEMICS, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE."

Send updates and announcements, share pictures or request participation

New Post

B

Calling all families who attended a parent/guardian conference this week!
Bookman Road Elementary School • 11 days ago • Friday, Sep 12 at 4:00 PM • Bookman Road Elementary School

Hello, BRE families!

Thank you so much for attending! We would appreciate your feedback about this week's event! Please complete the form below at your earliest convenience:

[RSD2 Family and Community Engagement Event: Feedback Form](#)
[Evento de participación familiar y comunitaria: Formulario de comentarios](#)

Thank you for your partnership! Have a wonderful evening!

Appreciate · Print

👁 User Preferred Notifications · Staff and Parents

❤ 1 person appreciates this post



Family Engagement & Involvement in Richland Two

Richland Northeast High School
Presenta

EVENTO DE PARTICIPACIÓN FAMILIAR PARA LAS FAMILIAS HISPANAS

- 
Incentivos y Recursos Escolares
- 
Registro Escolar y Portal para Padres
- 
Programas de Apoyo Académico y Tutorías
- 
Normas Escolares y Expectativas de Comportamiento
- 
Recursos Comunitarios y Servicios de Apoyo
- 
Actividades Familiares y Participación de la Comunidad
- 
Uso de Herramientas Digitales (Parent Square, K-12 Transportation)

 **Fecha:** Jueves, 10 de abril

 **Ubicación:** →7500 Brookfield Rd, Columbia, SC 29223

 **Auditorio Salones del Edificio A** 

 **Hora:** 5:30 - 7:00 PM

 ¡Los esperamos para una noche informativa y llena de oportunidades! 

RICHLAND NORTHEAST PARENT UNIVERSITY

Parent University is designed to provide families with essential knowledge, tools, and resources to help students succeed. Come out and learn about ways to help your Cavalier finish the semester out strong.

Date: April 9th

Time: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Location: Online (Google Meet)



Family Engagement & Involvement in Richland Two



**JOSEPH KEELS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Parent Support Group & Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

An important opportunity to communicate, and share information between school and families to support your child(ren)'s development.

Topic(s):

- Parent Square : Do You Have the APP ?
- Are you interested in becoming a PTO Officer
- Library Special Presentation
- Learn more about Joseph Keels Elementary



Joseph Keels Media Center

7500 Springcrest Drive Columbia



6:00PM-7:00PM

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

"All In For The Win"



Killian Elementary School

September 2025

PARENT ACADEMY WORKSHOP

Friday – September 26, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

B Hall Collaboration Space

"Why School Attendance Matters"

**Presenters Mrs. Shawna Moore and
Ms. Kernita Porter**

This workshop focuses on improving your student's attendance through various strategies - addressing the root causes for poor attendance. This workshop explains in detail the difference between **unexcused** and **excused** absences as well as **tips for getting your child into the school building on time**. This workshop is specifically designed for **ALL** parents - **empowering them to understand the complex issues behind attendance and working collaboratively with our school.**



Continuous Improvement

- Engagement takes time, trust, and consistency
- Listen before launching ideas, initiatives, and programs

Involvement is “doing for families”

Engagement is “doing with families”



Let's talk about it...

1. How is your school/district supporting Parent Involvement and Parent Engagement? Share examples of each.
2. How can you level up some of your parent and family activities to shift from involvement to engagement?
3. What does collaboration look like in your district now?



What did you hear?



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Resources for Title I Coordinators

**Updated Title I, Part A – Parent
and Family Engagement
Guidance**

**SCDE Title I Parent and Family
Engagement School Level
Requirements**



SCDE Parent Community Engagement

**Connect
with us!**



Subscribe Now!



Stay connected!..

Stay informed!...

Stay connected!...

Stay informed!...

Save the Dates!

2025-2026 Parent and Family Engagement Virtual Roundtables

Virtual Wednesdays 10:00am – 11:00am

- **September 10, 2025**
- **December 3, 2025**
- **February 18, 2026**
- **April 22, 2026**



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Contact Information

Leslie Bloss

Title I Parent and Family Engagement State
Coordinator

SCDE Office of Federal and State Accountability

804-734-6037

lbloss@ed.sc.gov

Emily Caskey

District Coordinator of Title I Compliance and
Family Engagement

Richland 2 School District

803-738-3260 x.21260

ecaskey@richland2.org

