

Family Literacy:

*A Multigenerational Approach to Improving
Education and Economic Outcomes*



National Center for
Families Learning



Tony Peyton
Executive Vice President
of Policy and Chief of Staff



Dr. Anna Kaiper-Marquez
Director, Family Literacy

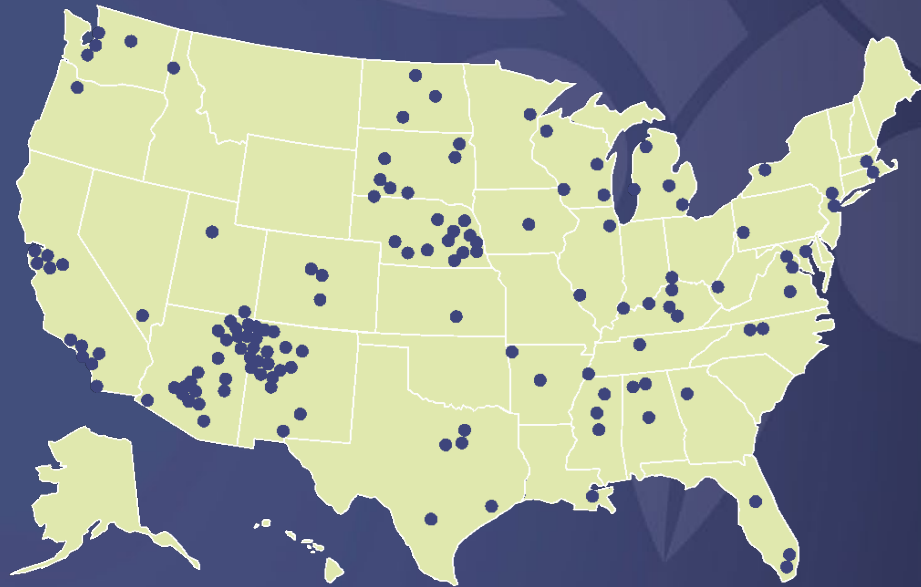


David Sisk
Director, North Carolina

NCFL works to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families.



- **Founded in 1989**
- **Headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, with a national staff**
- **150+ communities**
- **39 states**
- **Over 4.5 million families**



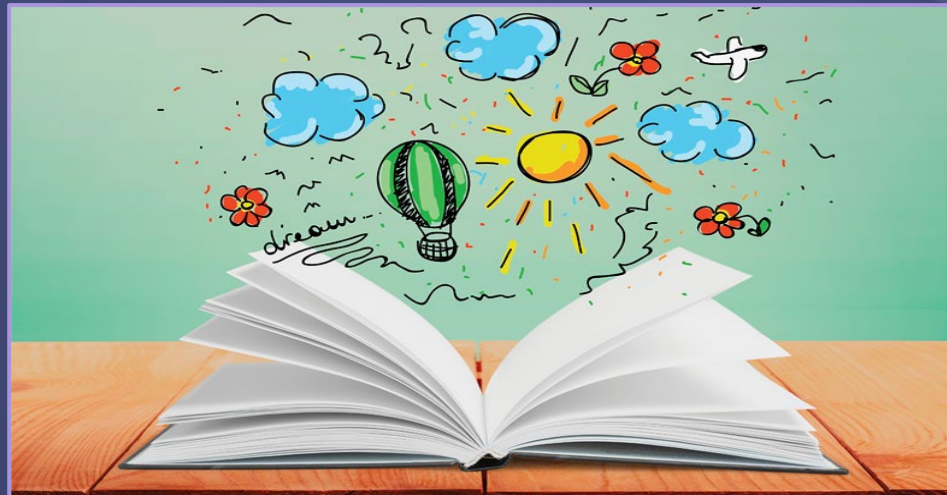


At NCFL we believe that families and caregivers:

- are their child's first and most important teacher
- come to programming with valuable life experiences
- bring numerous assets to programming

Please answer the following:

- How do you define literacy?



- **“the means of identification, understanding, interpretation, creation, and communication in an increasingly digital, text-mediated, information-rich and fast changing world” (UNESCO, 2023).**
- **Literacy is understood to have multiple components (numeracy, digital, multilingual, health, cultural literacies, etc.) of which print literacy is only a part.**
- **All required components that “individuals in a modern society need to learn...to construct knowledge from multiple sources and modes of representation” (UNESCO, 2013, p. 43).**

Please answer the following:

- How do you define family literacy?



What is Family Literacy?

- A continuum of services that address the multigenerational nature of literacy.
- Also conceived of as “longitudinal literacy” (SREB & NCFL, 2024)
- Inclusive of:
 - (1) Adult Education
 - (2) Parent Time
 - (3) Children’s education
 - (4) Parent and Child Together Time [®]



What is Family Literacy?

Reading—Writing

Math—Financial

Legal—Health

Digital—Multilingual

and more...

Family Literacy
=
Multiple Literacies

43 million
adults read at
the lowest
literacy levels
(NCES, 2020)

Parent and
child literacy
is linked
(Dollar General Literacy
Foundation, 2022)

Provides a
framework for
supporting
families



Family Literacy: **A Brief History**

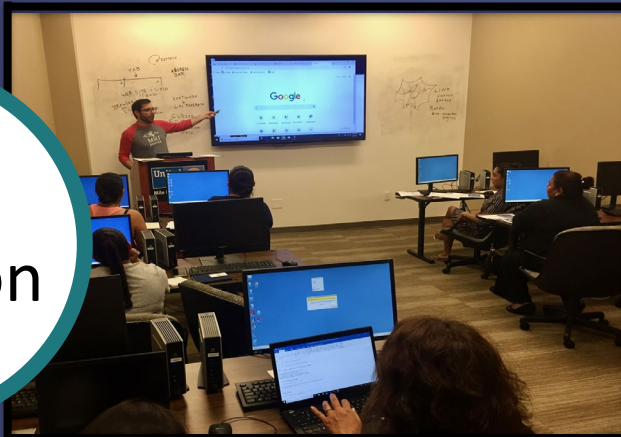
- Family literacy programming gained popularity in the late 1980s as literacy became a prominent issue in the United States for children and adults (Soliman, 2018)
- Kentucky state policy programs such as the Parent and Child Education Program (PACE), developed in 1985 by Sharon Darling, the Founder of the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL), focused on four components of family literacy
- This four-component model influenced policy and programming within and outside of the United States (Doyle, 2012)
- Led to the codification of the four-component definition of family literacy in multiple federal laws including the Adult and Family Literacy Act (WIOA, Title II)

In alignment with federal law, **NCFL defines family literacy as a continuum of services that address the multigenerational nature of literacy.**

Family literacy programs integrate:

- **(1) interactive literacy activities between parents and children;**
- **(2) support in parenting activities;**
- **(3) parent or family adult education and literacy activities that lead to readiness for postsecondary education or training, career advancement, economic self-sufficiency, and personal goal attainment;**
- **(4) age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.**

Adult
Education



Parent
Time



PACT®
Time



Child
Education



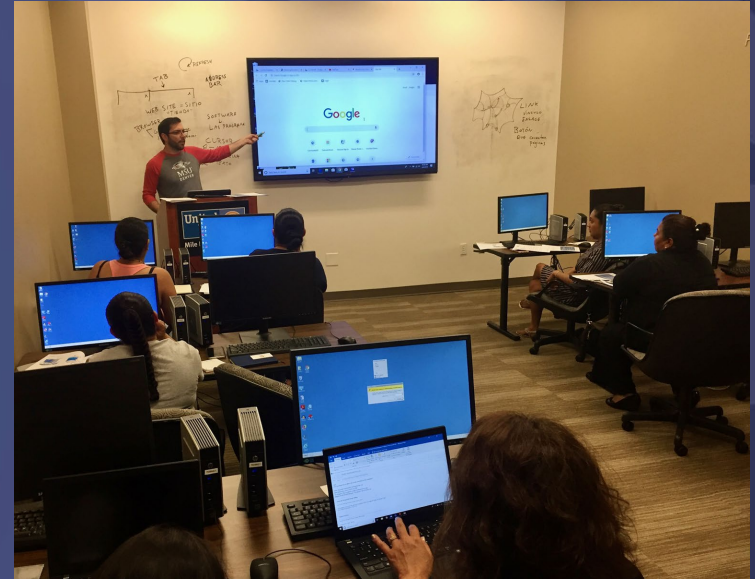


Video: What Is Family Literacy?



Adult Education is based on the adults' individual learning goals.

- Adult Basic Education
- English Language Acquisition
- High School Equivalency/GED
- College and Career Readiness
- Higher Education
- Employability Skills



Parent Time topics are based on interests of parents

Child
Development

Health and
Wellness

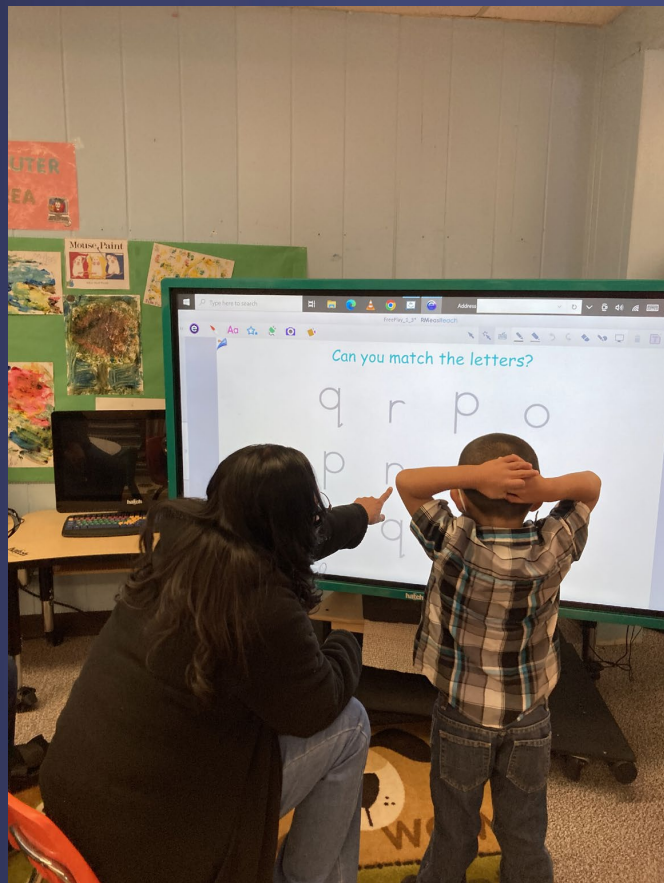
Helping with
Homework

Budgeting



Child Education is any education children receive in the classroom, before or after school, or with other community-based organizations.

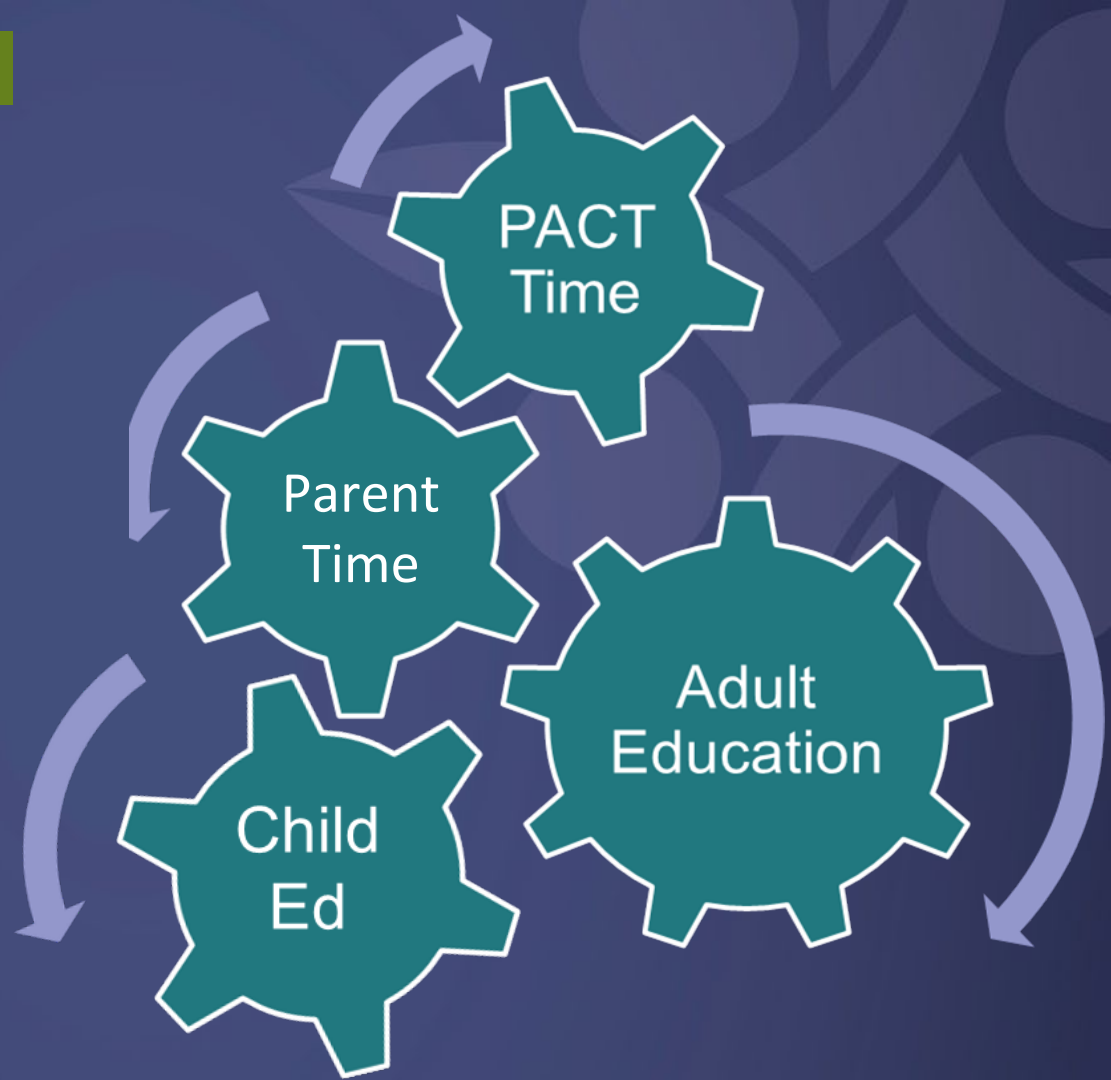
This programming is based on researched best practices and meets the developmental needs of children.



PACT Time occurs when parenting adults spend time in their children's learning space, like a classroom or outside of school learning space.

Parenting adults follow their child's lead as much as possible and practice skills gained during Parent Time.

- All 4 components work together to strengthen and inform each other.
- The key to Component Integration is communication.



When?

- During the school day
- Before or after school
- In the summer

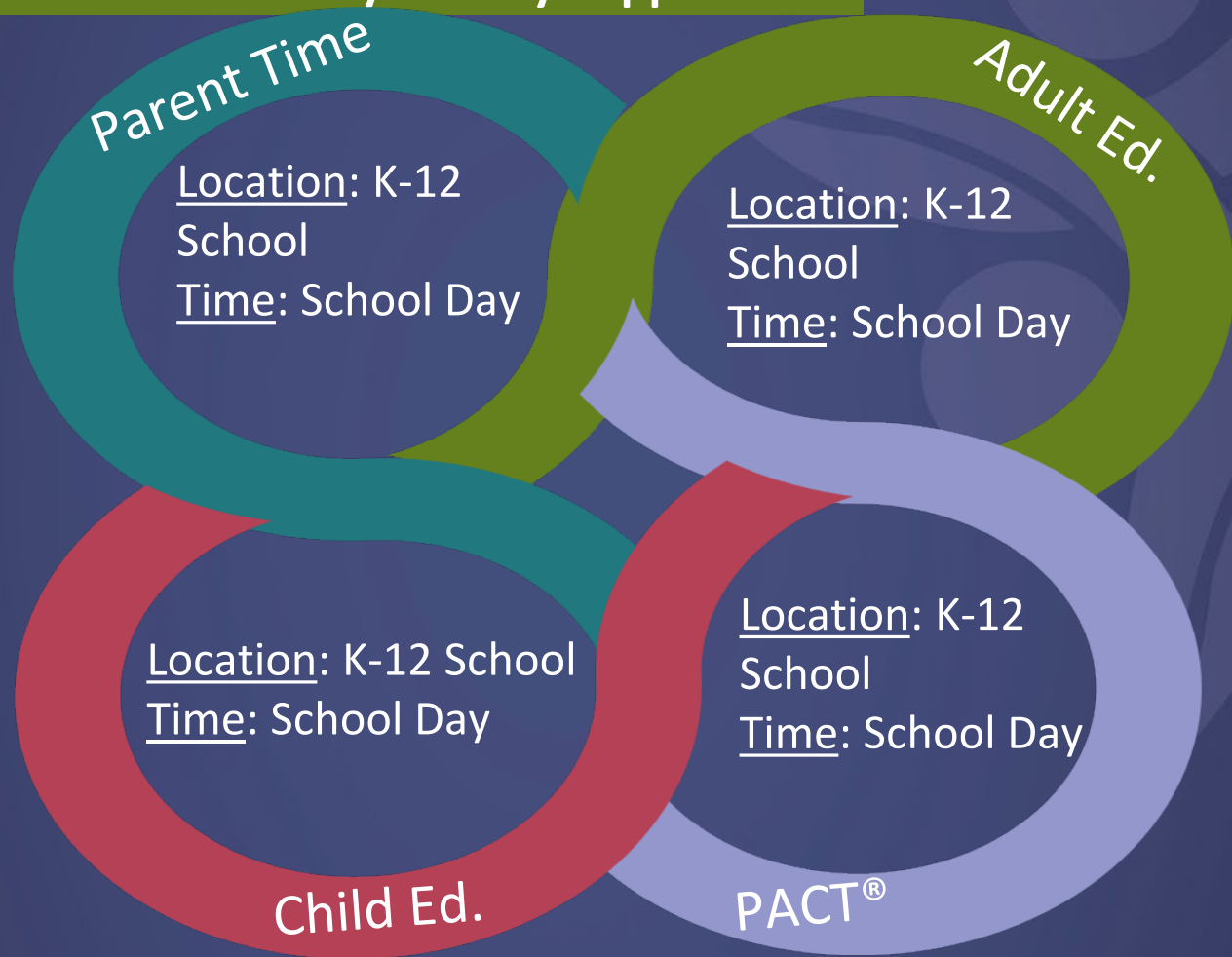
Or any combination!

Where?

**Community Based Organization,
Community College,
K-12 Schools, Church,
Library, Online, Home,**

Or any combination!

When and where can family literacy happen?



When and where can family literacy happen?

Parent Time

Location: Library
Time: Saturday

Adult Ed.

Location: Local GED
Center
Time: Day or Night

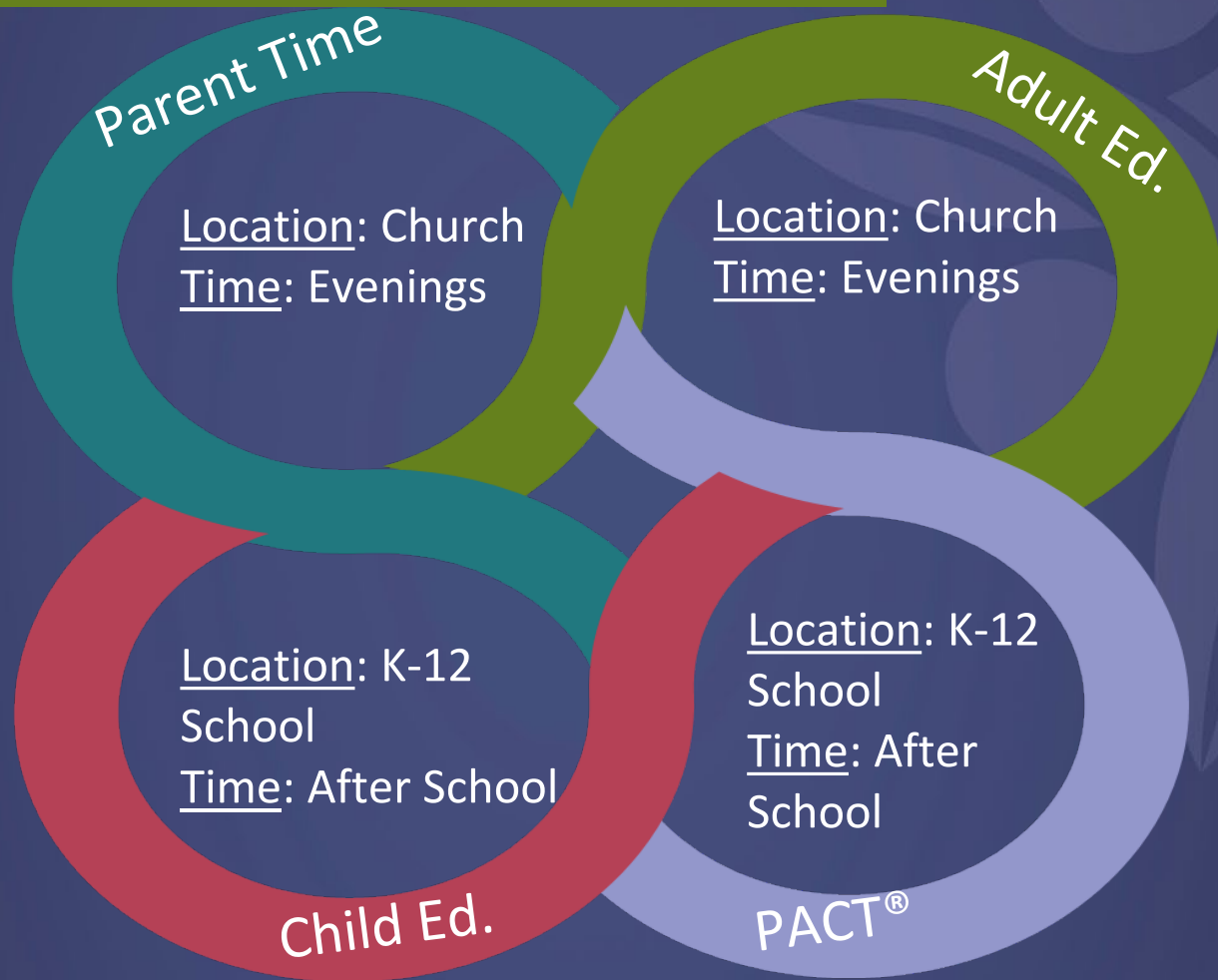
Location: Early
Childhood Center
Time: School Day

Child Ed.

Location: Library
Time: Saturday

PACT[®]

When and where can family literacy happen?



- **Are you familiar with this approach to intergenerational programming?**
 - **If so, in what ways are you familiar with family literacy?**

A stylized black outline map of the United States is centered on a dark blue background. The map includes Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands. Overlaid on the map are three horizontal, curved bands of color: a top band of light red, a middle band of yellow-green, and a bottom band of light blue. In the bottom right corner, there are faint, overlapping circular and leaf-like patterns in a lighter shade of blue. The text is centered over the map.

**Family Literacy in Policy and Practice:
Nationwide**

- **Connecticut**

- Family Literacy identified as a 1 of 8 priority funding areas for AEFLA
- Specific RFP for family literacy (\$1.1M)

- **Pennsylvania**

- State funds, Act 143 (legislative mandate requires at least 25% of the funds be used for family literacy)
- 14 programs were funded in 2023 (\$2.9M)

- **South Carolina**

- RFP issued specifically for family literacy programs
- \$32,333 of AEFLA funding is available per program
- 15 programs funded

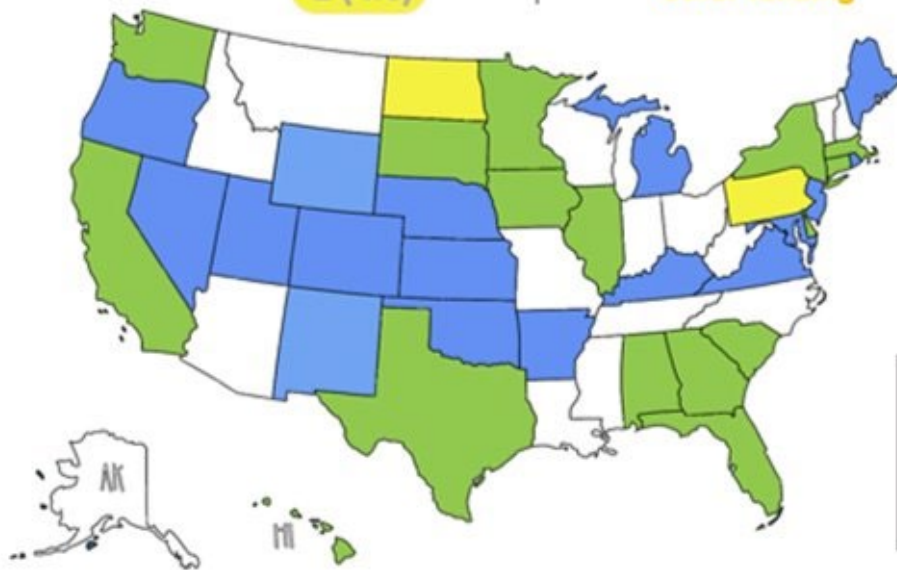
State Response – WIOA and Other Funding Sources

35 (74%) out of 47 states provided some form of funding for family literacy programs.

16 (35%) states provided **WIOA Title II funding** only.

17 (37%) states provided **WIOA Title II and other funding**.

2 (4%) states provided **other funding**.



12 (26%)

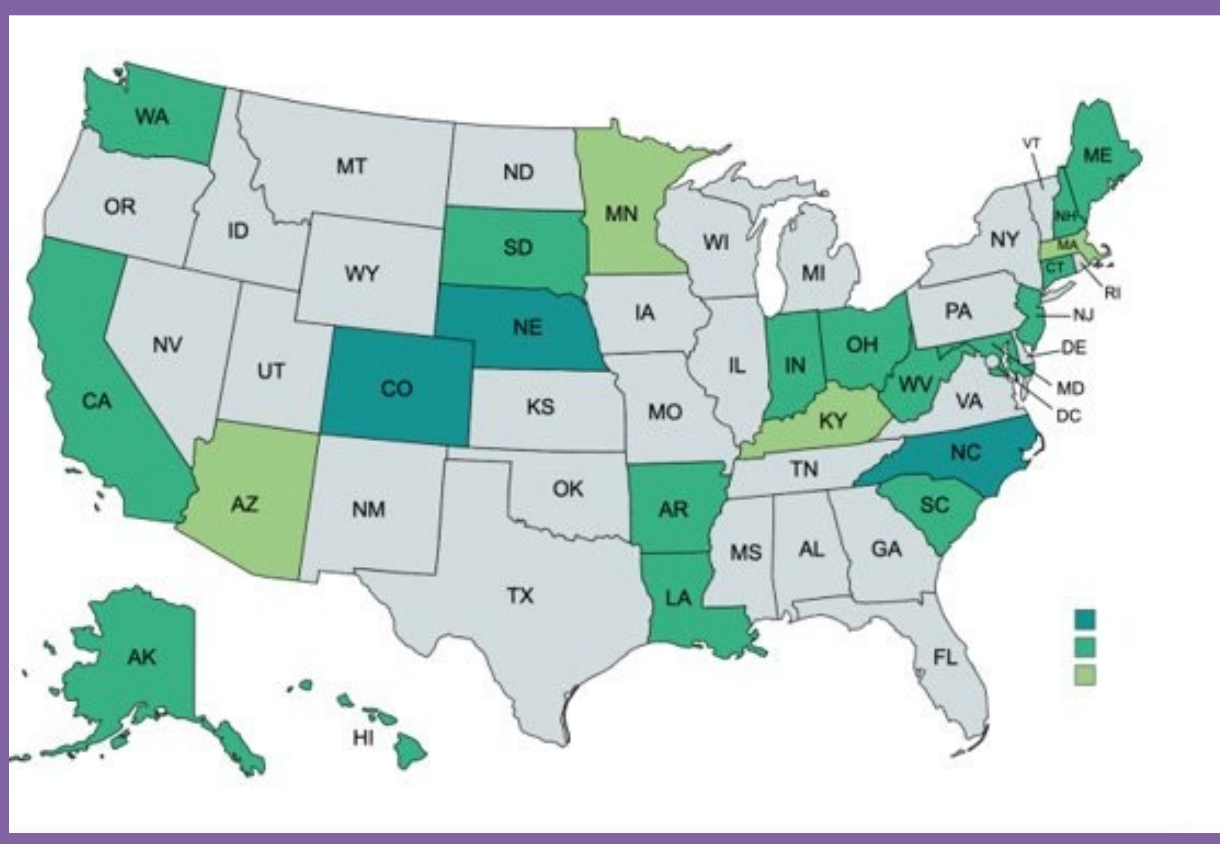
states either did not indicate funding or respond.




Family Literacy in 2021 Infographic,
Goodling Institute for Research in Family
Literacy

- Last reauthorization: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015
- Numerous programs in ESSA support family literacy and family engagement, including:
- Title I, Part A
 - Comprehensive Literacy State Development (Title II, Part B)
 - Innovative Approaches to Literacy (Title II, Part B)
 - English Language Acquisition Programs (Title III, Part A)
 - 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B)
 - Statewide Family Engagement Centers (Title IV, Part E)
 - Full-Service Community Schools (Title IV, Part F)

- **Authorized as Title IV Part F of ESSA**
- FSCS provide comprehensive academic, social, and health services for students, students' family members, and community members that will result in improved educational outcomes for children.
 - One of the 4 required FSCS pillars is Active Family and Community Engagement
 - Funding doubled in FY 2023 to \$150 million
 - Grant competition currently in process

- **Authorized as Title IV Part E of ESSA**
 - Grant to statewide organizations to
 - (1) carry out programs that promote parent and family engagement in education, or
 - (2) provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to SEAs, LEAs, schools, and organizations that support partnerships between families and schools
 - Funded via annual appropriations, currently funded at \$20M
 - New awards made in 2023



-  NCFL lead grantee
-  Led by other organizations
-  Federal funds phasing out

- **Department of Education**

- Higher Education Act: Federal Work-Study Program
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

- **Department of Health and Human Services**

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Head Start
- Preschool Development Grants

- **Department of Housing and Urban Development**

- Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Program



Family Literacy in Policy and Practice:

A green silhouette map of North Carolina is centered on the page. A light green rectangular box is overlaid on the map, containing the text "NORTH CAROLINA".

NORTH CAROLINA

- In 2006, **Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Schools, North Carolina** received a Family Literacy grant to begin a Family Literacy program.
- Follows the **4 Component Family Literacy model**



- Will undoubtedly help our families and students
- Must connect with community partners
- Must consider sustainability

“In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it.”

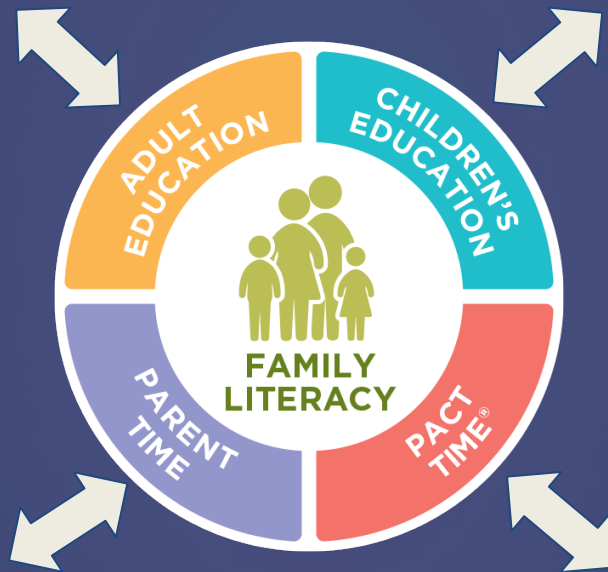
— Oscar Wilde



Image Source: Pixabay-Open Source

Connect with **local community college** regarding Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult ESL, GED, etc.

Connect with **community organizations**: YMCA, Library, Local Health Dept., public and private entities



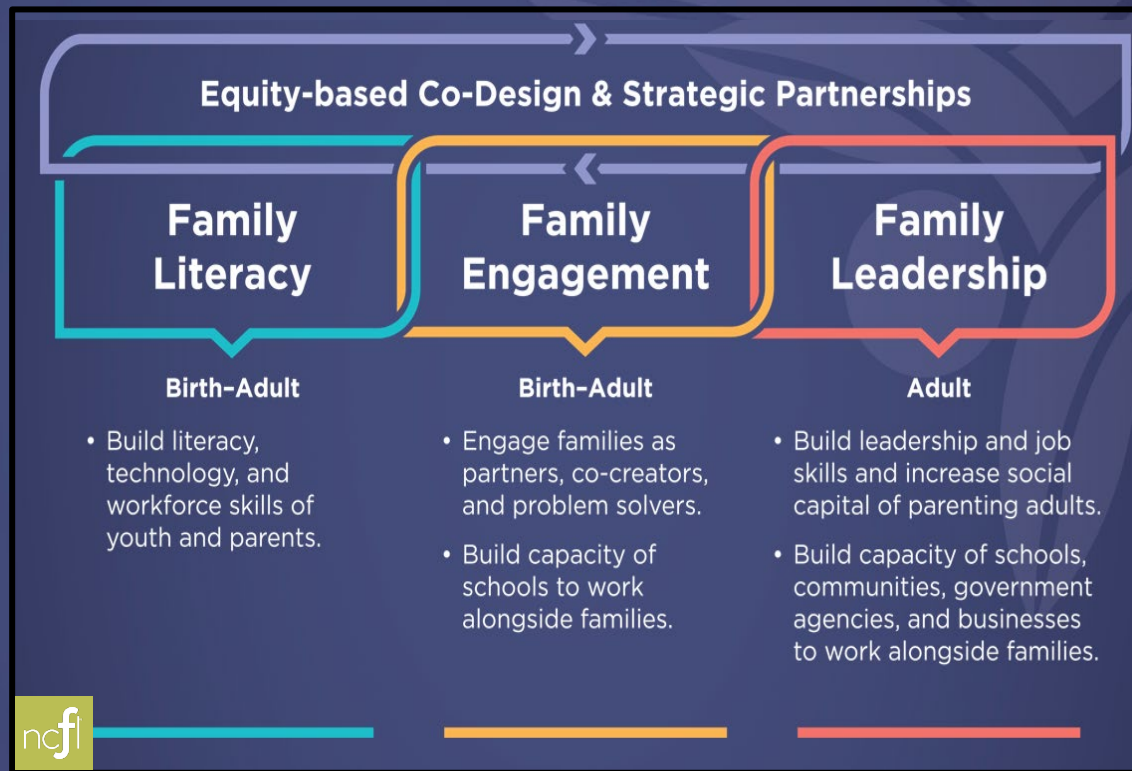
The **school district** provides the child's **K-12 education & space**. The Family Literacy program plugs into this resource.

When will PACT happen? **Designated district personnel** can help with this.

Child Education	Adult Education	Parent Time	PACT Time
<p>Local & State funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personnel - Space <p>Federal funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title I & Title III (ESEA) - Personnel <p>- Organizational costs</p>	<p>Local Community College (CC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WIOA funds (federal) - Must meet CC FTE requirements - State funds for organizational costs. <p>Federal Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title I & Title III (ESEA) - Childcare costs 	<p>Local, State & Federal funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organizational & administrative costs <p>Private, federal, state, local funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - YMCA - Local Health Dept. - Local non-profits - Business partners - Etc. 	<p>Local & State funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personnel - Space <p>Federal Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title I & Title III - Personnel <p>- Scheduling is one of the biggest challenges.</p>



The North
Carolina
Statewide
Family
Engagement
Center
(NC SFEC)

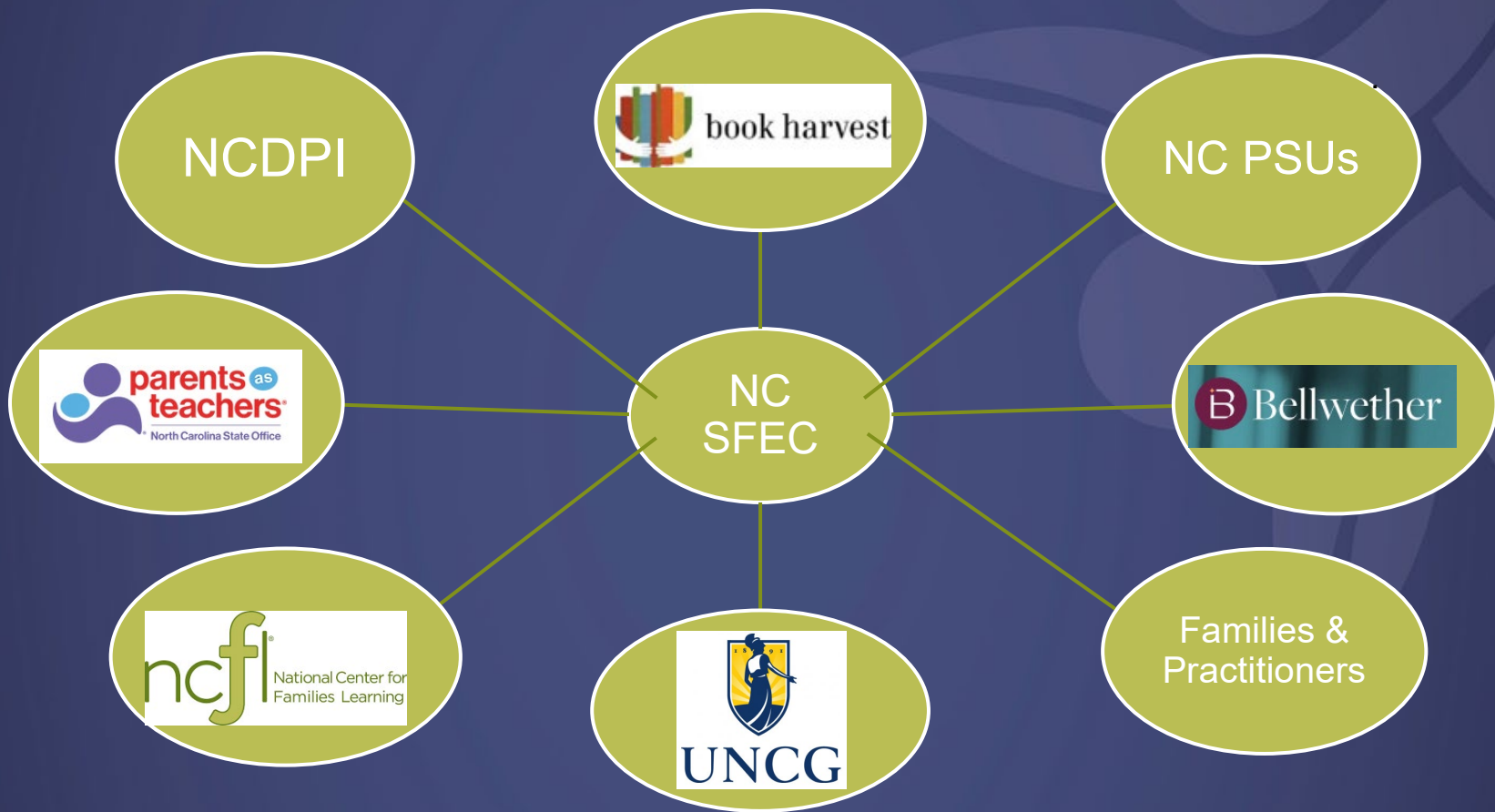


- **Community Asset Mapping**
 - Gather information about Family Engagement resources.
- **Family Literacy site identification & support**
 - Identify three PSUs who are interested in beginning a Family Literacy program.
 - \$30,000 investment into three PSUs for three years.
 - PSUs receive NCFL implementation support, planning and coaching.
- **Formation of SFEC Advisory Council**
 - Partners & 51% composed of parent representatives.
- **Intentional Connections with national SFEC network**
 - NCFL hosts the National SFEC network.
- **Establish a Digital Presence for NC SFEC**

- **Identify Family Engagement Champions**
 - Capture and share their insights via video-based storytelling.
- **Establish 8 regional Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) hubs.**
- **Build Capacity through high-impact evidence-based support.**
 - Home Visiting
 - Family Literacy programs
 - Parent Leadership programs

- **Incorporate digital tools to extend learning and advance equity in technology.**
- **Annual train-the-trainer TTA on topics related to policy advocacy to parent leaders in NC.**
- **Conduct policy landscape analysis.**

ncfi NC SFEC Partnerships & Connections



ncfi Why is Family Literacy Important?



Increase parent involvement in schools

Increase English language skills that impact involvement in classroom



Increase literacy behaviors in the home



Increases self-efficacy to support children's education



Increase in children's and adults' academic performance and attendance



- Now that you have overview of family literacy locally and nationally, what questions do you have specific to your state?



- Consider the needs of the entire family when formulating education strategies.
- Strengthen services to families by encouraging coordination and collaboration among state agencies to improve opportunities for children and families.
- Make family literacy an allowable use of state funds for child education, adult education, and family engagement.
- Authorize specific programs to support family literacy.



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For more information, contact:

Tony Peyton at
tpeyton@familieslearning.org

David Sisk at
dsisk@familieslearning.org

Anna Kaiper-Marquez at
akaipermarquez@familieslearning.org

FamiliesLearning.org/60x30