Why Family Literacy?
**FACT:** The single most important indicator of a child's success in school is the educational level of the mother.

**FACT:** Children of parents who are unemployed and have not completed high school are five times more likely to drop out of school than children of employed parents.

**FACT:** Parental involvement is a more significant factor in children’s academic performance than the qualities of their schools.
FACT: The performance advantage among students whose parents read to them in their early school years is evident regardless of the family’s socioeconomic background.

FACT: A single year of parental education has a greater impact on the likelihood of a son or daughter attending a post-secondary institution than does $50,000 in parental income.
Family Literacy is a family affair!
What Is Family Literacy?
What Is Family Literacy?

- Family Literacy is a program, usually offered through school districts, that provides services to increase the literacy level of the parent and the child simultaneously.

- Family Literacy relies heavily on partnerships to provide the four components of family literacy.

- Enrolled adults set specific goals.

- Family literacy program services are designed to help the adult/parent meet their goals.

Enrollment in a family literacy program is a short term and long term investment in the educational and financial well being of multiple generations.
Who Does Family Literacy Programs Serve?

Family literacy programs are designed to serve;

• The parent in need of a high school equivalency degree (HSED), high school diploma (HSD), English as a Second Language (ESL) and / or a career readiness certificate (CRC),

• Teen parents over 16 years of age, not enrolled in a traditional high school,

• Parents of children ages 0-8 who are considered at risk for school failure.
What Is Family Literacy?

Family Literacy truly is a family affair!
Goals of Family Literacy

- To aid in economic self-sufficiency
- To improve basic literacy skills of the adult and child
- To increase parental involvement
Goals of Family Literacy Continued

• To increase involvement in children’s literacy
• To increase involvement in children’s education
• To support children’s education in formal settings
• To enhance parenting skills
Sample Goals of Family Literacy Enrollees

- Get, retain or advance in a job
- Get off public assistance and earn a family-sustaining income
- Complete high school or obtain a GED certificate
- Transfer to a community college or training program
- Help their children succeed in school
- Manage their family’s health care
- Learn English, understand U.S. culture and be an informed citizen
Why Family Literacy?

Sporadic parenting sessions give families a moment. Family Literacy gives families a lifetime.
Parenting Session/Meeting

Parenting Sessions/Meetings are offered in isolation and sporadically with limited topics without specific long term goals or outcomes.
Stand Alone Parent Education Sessions and Family Literacy

The difference between sporadic parenting sessions and comprehensive family literacy is the integration of the components of family literacy along with intensity, duration and the setting of specific goals.
Stand Alone Sessions and Family Literacy

Periodic training sessions provide useful information for parents and is effective in some settings.

To make *sustainable differences* in the *economics* of the family there must be coordination of adult literacy, parent education, early care and education and literacy activities that occur between the parent and child.
The Components of Family Literacy

- **Parent Education (PE)** - the adult learns effective parenting strategies.

- **Adult Education (AE)** - the adult works to obtain a high school diploma, a high school equivalency degree and or a career readiness certificate.

- **Early Childhood Education (ECE)** – the child participates in center based or home based early care and education.

- **Interactive Literacy Activities Between Parent and Child (ILA)** – the parent uses skills learned in adult education and parent education to teach and interact with the child.
Component Integration

Power comes from integration of interdependent components of family literacy.

The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.
Component Integration

Family Literacy was never meant to be a stand alone Program.
• Component integration is key to family literacy.

• Without integration there is no family literacy-only separate components.

• With integration, common messages and educational goals are emphasized across each component.
• With component integration, connections can be made between educational goals and parenting goals.

• With component integration, adult literacy skills can be taught in the context of parent education and interactive literacy activities.

• Component Integration allows for the removal of barriers that may hinder the student remaining with the program.
Partnerships and Collaboration

• Partnerships and collaboration are absolutely necessary to effectively provide all four components of family literacy.

• Educational institutions and agencies work together to meet education and work goals and to remove participation barriers.

• Collaborators and partners understand the generational importance of facilitating economically independent families and how each contributes.
What is Family Literacy?

It’s a program designed for families to learn together. It is a program designed to be supported by community, county, and state partnerships and collaborative efforts.
Adult Education and Family Literacy Engagement Collaborative (AEFLEC)
Adult Education and Family Literacy Engagement Collaborative (AEFLEC)

- Funding Authorization – The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act is authorized by the Title II, Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-220)

- The AEFLEC grant is awarded annually to adult education programs continuing family literacy, and

- To adult education programs seeking to implement family literacy
AEFLEC

- Grantees are SC Adult Education (AE) Programs that have matching funds and have partnered successfully to implement the Interactive Literacy Component and the Early Childhood Component of family literacy.

- AE Programs partner to provide the four components of family literacy, with the AE program implementing the two components that serve the adult, Adult Education and Parent Education.

- AE students who are parents of children birth to age eight may participate.

- Participants must be enrolled in AE and must participate in parent education at least fifteen hours monthly.
AEFLEC Student Participation

Adult education students participating in the AEFLEC initiative set an educational goal(s) and family literacy/parent education goal(s).
Parent/Student Educational Goals

- to obtain a high school equivalency degree (HSED) or

- to obtain high school diploma (HSD) or

- to make an educational functioning level (EFL) gain and/or

- to obtain a career readiness certificate (CRC)
Adult Education

Adult Education is offered in every school district throughout South Carolina. Adult Education is also offered through Community Based Organizations (CBO). Adult Education Programs offer classes for students pursuing their high school diploma, GED, or career readiness certificate.
Family Literacy/Parent Education Goals:

Primary Goals
- to increase involvement in children’s literacy and/or
- to increase involvement in children’s education
Family Literacy/Parent Education Goals:

Secondary Goals
- Reading to children
- Visiting the library
- Access to books in home (obtained through purchase or donation)

Secondary Goals
- Help with school
- Contact with children’s teacher
- Involvement in children’s school activities
Parent Education

• Parent Education is offered in an organized, systematic way in conjunction with adult literacy, early childhood education and is coordinated with adult literacy goals and instruction.

• Parent Education sessions are integrated and aligned with literacy activities that involve the child and parent learning and reinforcing what they're learning together.

• Parent Education Classes have specific, individual parenting goals and outcomes. Sessions occur over an extended period of time and are connected.
For More Information on Family Literacy or for Technical Assistance Contact Lead Family Literacy Consultant:

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For More Information on Family Literacy and/or the Adult Education and Family Literacy Engagement Collaborative (AEFLEC) Contact:

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South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Adult Education
Considerations

• The Family Literacy Program will reflect the community and district it is located in,

• Be an advocate for Family Literacy,

• Network, and finally…

• Three Musts - 1. Do good job  2. Do a good job and 3. Tell someone about it.