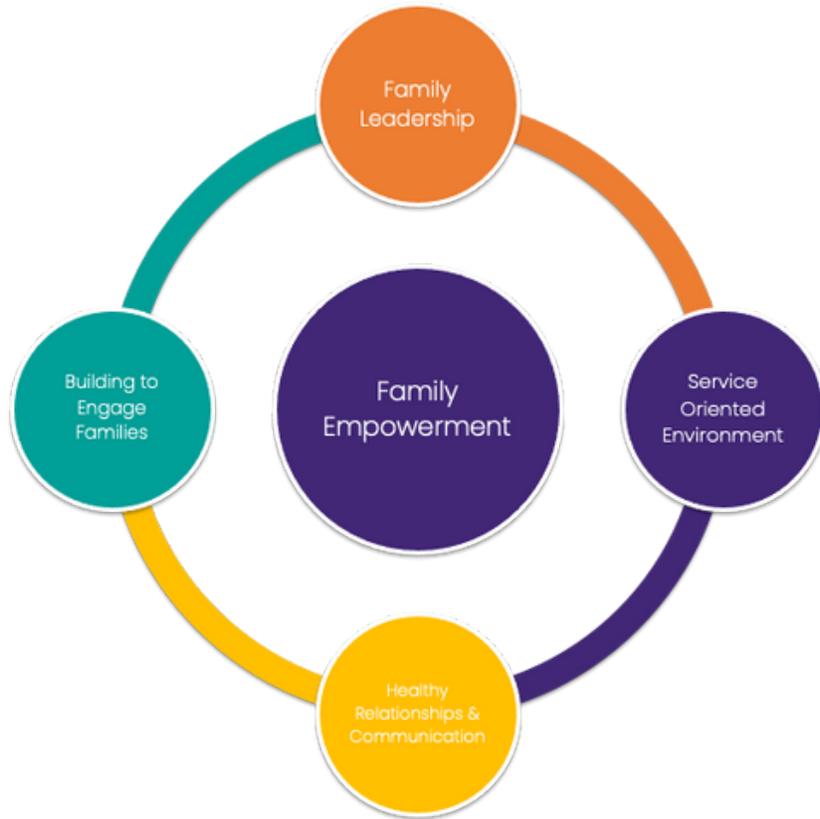


The SEZP Family Empowerment Council

"No School can work well for children if parents and teachers do not act in partnership on behalf of the children's best interests" – Dorothy H Cohen.



The Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership (SEZP) Family Empowerment Council (FEC) is a group of Zone family members/guardians and school team members working together to create an inclusive platform for families' voices to be heard and valued.

We are inspired to create a space where families and school staff will work together to make changes that will positively impact students' learning and development. We desire to establish a culture of belonging, so families know they are appreciated and respected.

We hope to develop a partnership with families that will create ideas with opportunities to turn those ideas into reality.

What is the Family Empowerment Council?

- A family-centered council composed of parents and school staff from across Zone schools who will co-create a family-informed vision for family empowerment
- An opportunity to collaborate and engage in collective problem solving with Zone schools, families, and students on ways to improve the educational experience for SEZP students
- A forum to share and collaborate on practices that each school community is employing to effectively engage with their families and students in service of all Zone students and families.
- A "think tank" of families and school teams focused on fostering healthy relationships and strong communication within and across schools

SEZP Family Council Members will serve as "ambassadors" for what is working across the Zone and opportunities for improvement. Any family member/guardian from a SEZP school can participate in the Council.

How Will the Family Council Do Its Work?

- Meet regularly (Monthly)
- Gather and interpret both quantitative and qualitative data that is deemed crucial for a strong school community
- Brainstorm and identify solutions/ideas for challenges facing schools and students
- Support own school or other SEZP schools in implementing zone-wide best practices identified through the Council