

ENGAGEMENT OF GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE HEAD START FAMILIES

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the differences in family engagement in geographically diverse Head Start families using the new Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework developed by the Office of Head Start. Participants included 419 urban and rural parents from the Midwest. All participants were surveyed using the Family Member Well-Being Index (FMWB), the Family Coping Coherence Index (FCCI), and the Parent and School Survey (PASS). There was one independent variable, geographic location, and seven dependent variables based upon the PFCE Framework's family engagement outcomes. Results indicated differences between two of the seven PFCE Framework's family engagement outcomes: families as lifelong educators and families as advocates and leaders. In addition, using the PASS instrument an overall difference in family engagement was found in rural and urban Head Start parents.