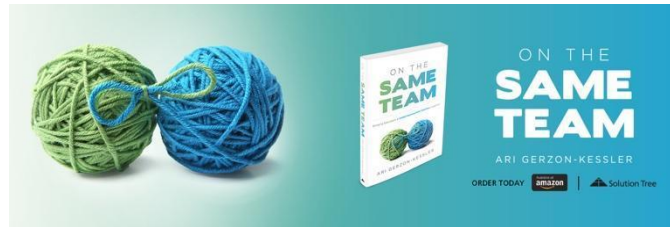


Families and Educators Together Consulting

Ari Gerzon-Kessler



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Resources to Support Your Next Steps

Ari's new book, *On The Same Team: Bringing Educators and Underrepresented Families Together* (Solution Tree, 2024), offers the guidance you need to nurture strong family-school partnerships that are essential for student success and also foster an inclusive and connective school community.

Here is an [overview](#) of the book's highlights and reader reviews, as well as information on how to purchase copies. Additionally, you can access several free [reproducibles](#) from the book that will support your current efforts to strengthen ties with families, including a school-family partnerships inventory to assess the current state of your school on the pathway from traditional family involvement to authentic partnerships.

ARTICLES

Below are several articles that Ari has published on education best practices that can support you and your colleagues around effective implementation at a classroom, school, and district level:

- [7 Ways to Promote Positive Communication With Families](#): Teachers and administrators can use positive messages to strengthen the link between families and the school. Here are the 7 strategies for doing so effectively. (Edutopia, 2024).
- [Engaging with Families Through Parent-Teacher Conferences](#): An array of strategies based on best practices for before, during, and after parent-teacher conferences to help educators create genuine partnerships with families and make this event more mutually meaningful (Edutopia, 2024).
- [24 Surprising Benefits of Strong School Family Partnerships](#): A close look at the myriad benefits of cultivating strong school-family partnerships, based on the research in my book *On The Same Team* (Solution Tree, 2024).
- [5 Pathways To Family Partnerships](#): An overview of top strategies to foster buy-in and ensure effective implementation of school-family partnerships efforts (ASCD, 2023).
- [Families and Educators Together overview article](#): Families and Educator Together (FET) teams are a unique structure to forge stronger relationships and create systemic change that bring together underrepresented families and educators to connect and collaborate (ASCD, 2022).
- [Involving Families: A Relationship Centered Approach](#): Focusing on cultivating relationships with the families of English learners leads to trust, parent empowerment, and collaboration to improve the whole school (ASCD, 2019).
- [We Know What Would Prevent Many School Shootings; Why Don't We Do It?](#): There are things we can do to give students coping skills before it's too late (Hechinger Report, 2021).
- [12 Ways to Actually Be An Anti-Racist Ally](#): Practical pathways to creating a more just community (Elephant Journal, 2020).
- [Childhood in Lockdown](#): Greater connectivity between students, teachers, school staff, and families leads to greater safety and resilience (Principal Magazine and Boulder Daily Camera, 2013).
- [Every Moments Counts: Five Principles for Boosting the Achievement of Struggling Students](#): Strategies to help underserved students demand more from themselves—both in and out of the classroom (ASCD and Educational Horizons, 2006).

PODCASTS & WEBINARS

Below are a variety of podcasts and webinars where Ari has been interviewed that explore high leverage school-family partnership practices around effective implementation at a classroom, school, and district level:

- [The Community Connection](#): An engaging conversation on the keys to effective family engagement and how to navigate the barriers with Nathaniel Provencio
- [The #1 Structure for Sustainable Family Partnerships](#) on the Time for Teachership podcast with Lindsay Lyons
- [Nurturing Parenthood, Relationships in Schools, and Time in Nature](#) on the Lifelong Learning Redefined podcast with Jorge Valenzuela
- [How to Involve Newcomer Parents](#) on the Have a Life podcast with John Schembari
- [Practical Strategies for Engaging Families in Education](#) on the Leading Equity podcast with Sheldon Eakins
- [On The Same Team: Bringing Educators and Underrepresented Families Together](#) on the Principal Center Radio podcast with Justin Baeder
- [Tapping Into Family-School Partnerships as the Superpower for Accelerating Student Outcomes](#) webinar in partnership with TalkingPoints

ARI'S OFFERINGS

Ari is a seasoned educational coach, experienced facilitator of professional learning experiences, and a dynamic keynote speaker. He coaches individuals, schools and districts to enhance their efforts in the following areas:

- High leverage strategies that help educators develop stronger communication and relationships with families *and* propel student learning, as well as detailed examples of schools that have utilized family partnership best practices to transform their school communities
- Practical tools for school leaders and educators to develop their capacities to serve as strong partners with families
- The keys to launching and sustaining highly effective Families and Educators Together school-based teams or similar collaborative structures that bring together educators and underrepresented families.
- Proven family engagement practices and technology tools that significantly improve two-way communication, increase attendance, and reduce chronic absenteeism rates
- Relationship-centered and culturally responsive home visits trainings of various lengths to support educators in implementing this impactful school-family partnership practice
- Mini-trainings on how to make existing school events for families more meaningful and fulfilling for all stakeholders (i.e. parent-teacher conferences, Back to School Night, etc.)
- Detailed guidance on how to become a more effective facilitator of meetings, collaborative gatherings, and teams that bring together diverse stakeholders

Ari's Bio

Ari Gerzon-Kessler is author of *On The Same Team: Bringing Educators and Underrepresented Families Together* (Solution Tree, 2024). He leads the Family Partnerships department for the Boulder Valley School District (CO) and is an educational consultant working with schools and districts committed to forging stronger school-family partnerships.

Ari has been an educator since 2000, having served as a principal and bilingual teacher. In 2006, Ari was a recipient of the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund. As principal, his school received the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award in 2013. His leadership efforts to strengthen partnerships with underrepresented families and dismantle unjust practices was featured in Education Week in 2015.

Ari regularly presents at national and international conferences on Families and Educators Together (FET) teams and other innovative family partnership best practices. He received his B.A. in African American Studies from Wesleyan University and an M.A. in instruction and curriculum from the University of Colorado. Ari is a certified Integral Facilitator and enjoys leading highly engaging adult professional learning and training sessions, as well as coaching individuals and teams.