

Parent-to-Parent Support Helps Schools Engage Families

Wisconsin Family Ties is a statewide organization that provides a powerful way to support the families of children with social, emotional, behavioral, or mental health needs. We work directly with schools and families through our statewide network of highly-trained parent peer specialists, and reduce teacher workload by addressing the psychosocial needs of the student and family.

In a recent program assessment, 85% of parents reported at least one improvement in the school situation/relationship since connecting with Wisconsin Family Ties. Increases in family involvement yield benefits across the board¹:

For teachers

Improved parent understanding of the teacher's perspective, strengthened parent-teacher relationships, and decreased workload due to improved student behavior

For students

Enhanced academic performance, improved behavior, increased social skills, and higher graduation rates

For parents

Increased confidence in their parenting and decision-making, improved perceptions of the school, better understanding of the teacher's job and curriculum

For schools

Improved teacher morale, decreased time and resources devoted to student behavior, and increased support from the community

"As a school district employee and someone very interested in children's mental health, your agency is very valuable to us. We receive excellent support from [your parent peer specialist] as she helps parents build skills and helps us look at ourselves with an objective point of view."

–Southeastern Wisconsin educator



Wisconsin Family Ties

Changing lives by improving children's mental health

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To ask about services:

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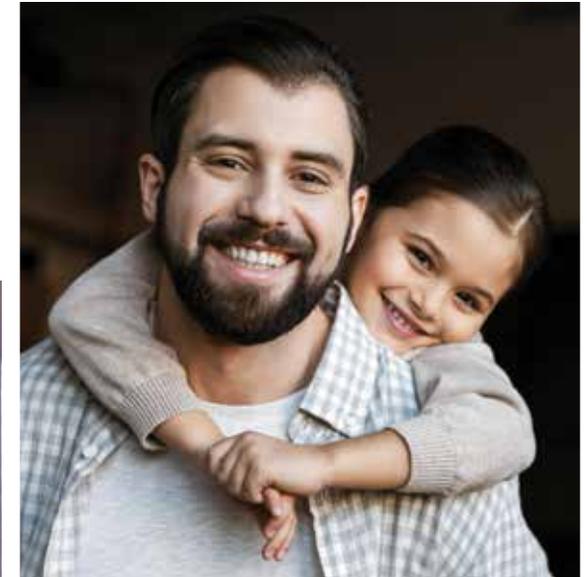
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Wisconsin Family Ties is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



Wisconsin Family Ties



Parent Peer
Specialist
Services

to help Wisconsin schools
assist children with
challenging behavior

¹Henderson and Berla, 1994; Henderson and Mapp, 2002.

²Baker, et al., 2003.



Wisconsin Family Ties Can Help You Work with Students and Families

Wisconsin Family Ties Can Help the Families You Serve

Parents of children with emotional or behavioral problems experience significant stress. Over time, that stress leads to worsened child behavior².

Our parent peer specialists decrease parental stress by providing emotional support grounded in shared lived-experience, and by assisting parents with accessing appropriate community supports. In addition, Wisconsin Family Ties parent peer specialists help families by:

- Translating special education language and concepts
- Facilitating understanding between schools and families
- Assisting in the creation of effective IEPs
- Supporting teachers by listening to concerns and helping identify creative solutions
- Teaching parents strategies they can use in their homes to reduce conflict and encourage prosocial behavior

Through our sister agency, Mentalliance, we provide coaching and consulting services to education professionals:

- Identifying unique approaches for working with students with challenging behavior
- Developing strategies for engaging hard-to-reach families
- Implementing effective approaches for working with students and families with trauma histories
- Consulting on individual students with mental health needs, including conducting educational evaluations
- Assisting educators to better understand families and the parent perspective



We Provide Research-Based Training Programs

Trauma-free Crisis Intervention

Learn how to defuse escalating behavior, safely handle aggressive behavior, and improve the future behavior of students with emotional challenges.

How to Work Effectively with Nearly Any Family

Discover methods for uncovering barriers to parental involvement, and practice applying strategies for engaging the most-difficult-to-reach families.

Compassion Resilience

Learn how to maintain your physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing while compassionately addressing the needs of students.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Learn how to help an adolescent who is experiencing a mental health challenge or is in crisis.

Funding Sources

There are a variety of sources schools can access to pay for Wisconsin Family Ties' services, including IDEA Part B flow-through, Title I, and state and federal grants.

For information about working with
Wisconsin Families Ties, call
(608) 267-6800 or email
info@wifamilyties.org.