FAST programs

- Welcome children, providing activities or childcare
- Usually provide a light meal
- Focus on family involvement in education to empower parents
- Encourage partnerships with community organizations
- Can provide take home materials or support

Program Ideas

Homework help – Providing parents with strategies to support homework at home – Can send home a pencil case with supplies for homework at home

Math Game Night – Night of math games with parents and children to support math curriculum – Can send home a game such as dominos to support playing games at home

Healthy Food for the Healthy Mind – Ideas for easy, healthy and low cost snacks and meals – Can be hands on preparation or trying samples, can send home a lunch box or water bottle

Bilingual Parent Meetings – host a meeting in languages spoken by parents in the community – Can send home materials in useful languages and contact for bi-lingual people in schools

Mentoring Programs – working with a community partner organization to provide mentoring to students, setting up on going mentoring for students

How to Start FAST in your local:

1. Speak to your local leaders to get approval to start FAST in your local. Bring some basic information with you for the conversation.

2. Create FAST committee in your local with at least 2-4 members. Try to include members from different work sites.

3. Reach out to NJEA for training and developing your first proposal – at FAST@njea.org

4. Prepare your proposal with your committee. Start small your first year.

5. With approval of local leader, submit proposal to your regional office for approval. Approval process can take 2-3 weeks, so submit with enough time before your first event.

The goal of the FAST program is support family involvement in their children’s education, to enhance their academic progress, and to know our members are partners in their children’s success.