

# Maryland Head Start Association

## 2019 Annual Spring Conference

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**Thursday, May 9, 2019**  
**11:00 am -12:00 noon**

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Ron Mirr**  
**Senior Vic President**  
**FACE and Learning Solutions**

Over fifty years of research on the impact of family engagement and home-school partnerships reveals a strong link between these partnerships and improved student outcomes at all levels. Despite this research, many programs and schools lack an intentional focus on the development of effective partnerships with families. During this keynote, participants will learn which family engagement activities make a difference to children's learning and which ones don't. Participants will also learn about the steps they can take to move family engagement from a focus solely on "events" to a more complete process that builds the capacity of both educators and families to support children's success at all levels.

**Ron Mirr** is a Senior Vice President for Scholastic Education where he leads Scholastic's efforts around Learning Supports and Family and Community Engagement. Previous to his joining Scholastic, Ron worked as a mental health clinician, a school administrator, a staff developer, and an executive consultant. Ron has nearly 40 years of experience working with preschool programs, K-12 schools, and health and social service agencies. Since 1993 he has focused his efforts on helping schools address "barriers to learning," primarily in the areas of engaging families in efforts to improve student achievement, connecting families to mental health and other supportive services, and helping increase student "connectedness" to schools. Ron was the founder of the Iowa Parent Information Resource Center in 1995 and has been a consultant to programs in many different states and internationally on how to engage families in the learning process. He is a co-author of the Family Engagement Assessment—a tool that measures a program's capacity for developing effective partnerships with families. Ron has taught graduate courses and provides professional development for educators and community agency staff on family engagement and school climate.