Building Strong Family, School, and Community Engagement and Leadership in a Secondary Dual Immersion Program

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Dr. Alma Castro
Objectives

❖ To explore parent engagement practices at your school.
❖ To learn about CABE’s Project 2 INSPIRE research-based parent leadership program and the impact on student achievement.
❖ To develop next steps for implementing family engagement at your schools.
❖ To uncover leadership implications for sustainable parent partnerships.
Share with a partner about your schooling experience as a child, and how your parents were involved in your education.
Who are our Families?
How are they involved?
What keeps them from being involved/engaged?
What is Family Engagement?

Think-Write-Share: At your tables, describe what does family/parent engagement look like at your school.

Be prepared to share out with the whole group.
Family Engagement is a process for building true partnerships between home and school that connects families to student learning and school improvement.
• **Involvement**: To include

• **Engagement**: To include *with mutual commitment and benefit*
Key Elements of Engagement

- Building Relationships
- Linking to Learning
- Addressing Differences
- Supporting Advocacy
- Sharing Power
What the Research Says:

- When parents feel more **confident** about their ability to support their child’s learning it has a positive impact on their learning.
- When engagement is **focused** on what children are learning in the classroom it has a more positive effect on student achievement.
- When parents share **positive messages** regarding the **value** of education it has a positive effect on student outcomes.

Karen Mapp, Harvard University
Guiding Principles

1. Building communities of mutual support and trust for collaboration.
2. Creating group environments that promote dialogue and reflection, and encouraging positive action.
3. Establishing environments that nurture parents’ ability to transform their empathy and learning into action.
4. Building meaningful relationships based on trust and respect, e.g., parent and parent, parent and teacher, parent and administrator, etc.
5. Fostering in every person and group a sense of self, place, purpose, direction, possibilities, and options and each person/group has the capacity for self-discovery, improvement, shared learning and action.
CABE’s Project 2INSPIRE provides a school-based program of high quality education, resources, and professional and leadership development to parents with an emphasis on outreach and services to parents of most disadvantaged students: low income, minority, and ELs. It is a school reform model that works to create family friendly schools.

- Over 10 year research based program
- 2016-17 Partnered with over 30 LEA’s
- Severed over 2,000 parents in 2016-17 through conferences and PD
1. **Knowledgeable parents** with the leadership skills to take action steps to ensure their children have equitable educational opportunities.

2. Schools and districts serving diverse background students and maintaining **high quality parent engagement and leadership programs**.

3. Development of **parent leaders who can effectively participate in local school reform efforts**.

4. **Increased student achievement**
Topics Explored

**Parent Engagement:** Helping Your Child Achieve

**Building Bridges:** Family and School Communication
Understanding the U.S. System of Education and Accountability

**College and Career Readiness:** Learning about A-G, transcript review, Community Colleges, CSU, UC, FAFSA….

**Common Core State Standards and Assessments:** SBAC, review of data

**English Learners and Language Development Programs**
- Equitable Education for English Learners / Long term ELs
- Alternative Bilingual Education Programs
- ELPAC and Reclassification
Celebrate our Progress in Family Engagement

Teachers are improving their perceptions of parents.

- In the first survey of teachers, **55% of classroom teachers** said they felt that their students’ **parents helped their children learn**.
- In Year two, **78% of school staff** indicated that parents at their school who are **actively engaged** have a positive impact on student learning, and
- By Year three, that number had **increased to 88%** of school staff.
- Annual Parent Engagement Survey results indicated that **93% or more** of teacher respondents “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that their actively engaged parents have a positive impact on student learning.

2013-2015 survey results
Share about activities that your school prioritizes/organizes to engage parents/families.
Group Activity

- With your team members, discuss & Chart ideas for parent engagement.

- Gallery Walk: Please add to ideas presented by another group using a different color marker.
What is one commitment that you will take back to your school to implement?
Strategies for Engaging Families

- **Relationship Building**: Welcoming environment, Listening conferences, home visits, shared accountability.

- **Communicating Effectively**: classroom/school newsletters, online access to information, in language that families can understand (content & native lang.)

- **Engaging Families in Student Learning**: learning standards, curriculum guides, testing expectations, technology use, opportunities for greater understanding, looking at student work & data and developing goals!

- **Building Parent Capacity to Help at Home**: Math & Literacy Nights, home-school projects, monitoring grades/transcript, ..Tip sheets

- **Including Parent Voice in decision-making**: School Improvement Committees, Classroom committees, LCAP, SSC, ELAC, open door policy, Surveys.
Thank you for attending our session

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BuildingStrongFamilySchoolCommunityEngagement