From Cambridge to Leander:
Family Engagement According to Harvard

Mark Koller - Principal
Leander Middle School
Defining Family Engagement

The various ways that a child’s adult caretaker (biological parents, foster parents, siblings or in the community) at home, school or in the community, effectively support children’s learning and healthy development.

-Dr. Karen Mapp -Senior Lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education
What Family Engagement is...

“It doesn’t mean parents being in the school all the time.” -

“Dangerous to not understand everything is political.”

- Dr. Andres Alonso - Professor of Practice - Harvard Graduate School of Education
Five ingredients to the success of schools:

According to the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research

1. **Strong Leader** - Serves as the driver of change with a certain leadership style, distributive (share power).
2. **Strong Professional Capacity** - Custodian up. Everyone there is focused as a learning community. Make sure people are getting great PD (not one and done).
3. **Student Centered Learning Climate**. “Is this good for the kids?” “Would I want this for my child?”
4. **Family and Community Ties**
5. **Instructional Guidance**

All five factors drive instructional core.
Open House... is that a party you want to attend?

**Process Conditions**
- Linked to Learning
- Relational
- Developing vs Service Orientation
- Collaborative
- Interactive

**Organizational Conditions**
- Systemic: across the organization
- Integrated: embedded in all programs
- Sustained: with resources and infrastructure
Your goal is to build and enhance the capacity of staff/families in the 4 “C” areas:

1. Capabilities (skills and knowledge)
2. Connections (networks)
3. Cognition (beliefs, values)
4. Confidence (self-efficacy)

Stand up and get with groups of four.
4 C’s with some cooperative learning

- Establish Partner A
- B, C, D clockwise from Partner A.
- Elevator introduction. (Who, What, Where, Why(one word))
- In one minute develop a group handshake that incorporates the 4 C’s

A. Capabilities(skills and knowledge)
B. Connections(networks)
C. Cognition(beliefs, values)
D. Confidence(self-efficacy)
Back to Dr. Alonso… (read the case study)

“What’s the problem you are trying to solve?”

“How do you define it?”

“You’ll never be on the defensive if you are always willing to take the extra trip.” (Continuously Improving)

“If you’re not in people's heads, you’re not effective.”

Be incredibly transparent.

Have teachers that care deeply.

Culture Mediates Everything!

Break away from the mindset the parents don’t trust teachers and teachers don’t trust parents.

Engage or go.
“...making the extra trip.”

Why not. Sure. Yes. We can try.

Vs

We can’t. Too risky. It’s after contract hours. No.
Heading to @Koll @KollTX

@Koll

What's the problem you're trying to solve?

Look for us and grab some summer reading materials! @PHEHuskies

#SR4A #PHEmobilelibrary #PawsOnPrint
Your turn.

Design Thinking Challenge!
Apply
Questions?