Success Starts at Home
Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

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The Importance of the Family’s Role:

- Academic
- Social
- Emotional Development

....Everyone Agrees!

Common Refrain:

- Desire: More Families
- Diverse Backgrounds & Cultures
- Engaged in Child’s Education
- Strong Partnerships – Home & Schools

Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

- Key Principles of Parent Engagement
  - Build on parents strengths
  - Respect and value families’ experience, knowledge, and potential contribution

Valuable Parenting Qualities

- Caring
- Loving
- Patient
- Kind
- Fun
- Firm
- Planner

- Good Listener
- Trustworthy
- Responsible
- Dependable
- Structured
- Considerate
- Understanding
- Organized

- Consistent
- Follow Through
- Consistent
- Flexible
- Playful
- Creative
- Loyal

Tell Me a Story

- Find a partner and take turns interviewing each other:
  - Tell about a time when you were parenting at your best
  - What did you do?
  - What worked well?
- Share your “Valuable Parenting Qualities”
Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

- Key Principles of Parent Engagement
  - Build on proven frameworks & research
  - Dual Capacity Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships
  - Harvard Family Research Project
  - Epstein’s 6 Types of Parent Involvement

Developing Effective Family-School Partnerships

Key Parent Roles

- GOALS & DREAMS
- RISK FACTORS

Encouraging

- Building an Achievement Identity
- “Can Do” Spirit
- Positive Self Image

Effective Family-School Partnerships

Outcome: Families who engage in multiple roles

GOALS & DREAMS

RISK FACTORS

Key Parent Roles

- Boost Student Achievement
Communicating
- Talking together
- Expressing high expectations

Modeling
- Lifelong Learning
- Reading Daily
- Enthusiasm for Education

Creating Structure
- Family routines
- Boundaries for time and behavior

Parent Roles
Harvard Family Research Project

Best Practices
Columbia

Research Links Family Roles in Education to Indicators of Student Achievement
- Hours spent reading together
- On-time school attendance
- Monitoring homework completion & studying
- Consistent structure at home
- Use of positive discipline & consequences
- Support talking together more often
- Positive family communication
- Volunteer involvement at school
Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

Key Principles of Parent Engagement

- Build the skill capacity of both staff and parents to partner in ways that support academic achievement
- Practical and Relational

How Do We Build Capacity?

- Listening
- Clear expectations
- Dealing with conflict
- Affirmation and encouragement

Parenting skills are Leadership Skills!

Paper Heart

Kids love it when parents use more positive words!

101 Days of Positive Power Words:

- Encouraging
- Listening Well
- Affirming character
- Framing a positive future

The Argument Trap

- Kids avoid or delay doing task
- Wears out parents
- Creates distractions
- Kids have the power & control

The Shield

- Don’t engage
- Stand strong
- Use few words
- Repeat like a broken record
Avoiding the “Buddy Trap”

Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

- Key Principles of Parent Engagement
  - Skillful parents create structure for achievement
  - Parents are connected to teaching and learning goals

Creating Structure at Home
- Develops proper study skills
- Provides focus on literacy
- Leads back to performance in the classroom

Parent Roles in Family-School Partnership

Partnering
- Connecting Home to School
- Monitor School Work
- Plan for Further Education
Collaborating
- Working Together for School Improvement
- School and Community Networks

Leadership
- Advocating & Decision-Making
- Parents as leaders at home, school, and community

Engaging Parents for Student Achievement
- Key Principles of Parent Engagement
  - Parents make great trainers
  - They are credible
  - Parent trainers provide sustainability
  - They have language and cultural skills
  - Dads reach other dads

Building Community Owned Parent Engagement & Leadership Teams

Parenting Partners
Five Step TRAINING process

Step 1
Each school forms a team with up to 5 members

Step 2
Team attends the 2-day Facilitators Training
- Teams practice presenting the workshops
- Each team receives coaching at their table in their own language
Step 3
At the close of Training, teams have everything they need
- Comprehensive Team Resource Kit
- Competence, Confidence, Certification
- Complete team plan for strong attendance
- Ongoing coaching and team support

Step 4
Teams now lead the workshops at their school

Step 5
Sustainable parent leadership teams
- Builds a cohort of parent leaders
- Continues to touch more families

Parenting Partners Outcomes
- Reading and academics improve
- ADA attendance improves
- Effective Skills for Academic Achievement
- Successful Family-School Partnerships!

Selecting Best Practice Programs: A Checklist
- Builds Key Parent Roles
- Best Practice – Research/Outcomes based
- Practical and Relational
- Develops Parents’ Skills & Capacity
- Partnership for Achievement
- Builds Parent Leadership
- Sustainable – Ongoing support

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