Creating Powerful Parents Through Thinking and Learning

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Imagine...

... a school or district that makes the culture, language, heritage and well-being of every student and parent a priority:

1. What does the climate feel like in this school?
2. How do they make parents feel when they visit the school?
3. What do teachers do to make parents feel included?

Now imagine this for your school.

Impact of Family Engagement Strategies on Student Learning

Flamboyan Foundation defines family engagement as collaboration between families and educators that accelerates student learning.

Lower impact

- Celebrations
- Parent help on administrative tasks
- Parent training academies & events
- Goal-setting talks
- Fundraisers
- Parent resource rooms
- Back to school night
- Regular, personalized communication
- Potlucks & multicultural dinners
- Family support services
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Positive phone calls home
- Performances & multicultural showcases
- Generic school newsletters
- Interactive homework
- Classroom observations
- Generic school newsletters

Higher impact

- Weekly data-sharing folders
- Home visits
- Modeling of learning support strategies
- Parent help on learning projects
Parent Engagement Needs Assessment

GOAL
To increase parental involvement by 10%+ for this school year in the areas of parent-teacher conferences, the monthly Cafecitas and PTA meetings, parents helping teachers develop class materials and with the Parent Involvement Committee and other areas of interest.

Specific Objectives

➢ To gather, research and analyze data regarding the current practices of parent engagement.

➢ To recommend improvement strategies and next steps in capacity building and parental outreach strategies.

➢ To implement recommended strategies and provide coaching and support.
Target: Increase parental engagement by 10%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs provided by District Family Engagement</th>
<th>Current Numbers</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Actual (June)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Literacy Happens at Home</td>
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<td>2. Literacy Happens in the Bedroom &amp; Bathroom</td>
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<td>3. Literacy Happens Out and About</td>
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<td>4. Children with Anger Tendencies</td>
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<td>5. Games and Activities for Children</td>
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<td>6. ESL Classes</td>
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Programs provided at campus level

| 1. Cafecitos with Counselors                    |                |      |               |
| 2. Meet the Teacher                             |                |      |               |
| 3. Literacy/ Academic Game Night                |                |      |               |
| 4. Student-Led Conferences                      |                |      |               |
| 5. Veteran’s Day                                |                |      |               |

Focus Group Process

1. Sign-up List
2. Name Tags
3. Goal Statement: Increase parent involvement by 10%
4. Greetings & introductions
5. Shared agreements
6. Response to three questions
7. Summary of responses
8. Circle of Gratitude
Focus Group Process

Shared Agreements
* Your voice is important.
* Everyone will be heard.
* Speak your truth.

Normas
* Su voz es muy importante.
* La voz de todos será escuchada.
* Hablen su verdad.

Three Questions

1. What is parent involvement?

2. Do you feel that the parents are committed and engaged? Why or why not?

3. What are your ideas and recommendations to increase parent involvement?
Facilitators of Focus Groups

Principal
Vice Principal
Counselor
Reading Specialist
Special Ed Coordinator
2 Teacher Assistants
2 Teachers
Parent Involvement Coordinator

Focus Groups

• Parents - English
• Parents - Spanish
• Teachers
• 4th & 5th Grade Students
• Parent Engagement District Personnel
• Guiding Coalition
Data Review and Prepare for Faculty Meeting

Consolidate data
Prepare for faculty meeting presentation
Develop PPT
Assign roles for facilitation

Third Question

3. What are your ideas and recommendations to increase parent involvement?

1. Make communications “more friendly.” Stop with all the flyers.
2. Web sites are not updated. Finding out about events at the last minute.
3. Certain events are more successful than others. Have to get creative.
4. Teachers should be more involved in school activities.
5. Have more teacher and parent engagement activities.
6. Parents get too many negative phone calls
7. Focus on front office staff.
8. Look at alternative times to hold events.
9. Do teachers really want parents to come?
Faculty Meeting

Teambuilding

Focus Groups Overview

Musical Mingles to Form groups of 4

Data analysis & Recommendations

Report out
Third Question

3. What are your ideas and recommendations to increase parent involvement?

Immediate

Short Term

Long Term
An Exploration of the Impact of Brain-Based Training on Hispanic Parents of English Language Learner Elementary Age Children

by Susan F. Tierno, Ed.D.
Parents need to be comfortable in the following areas: Communication, Social Capital, Technology, and Language.
Communication

Focus Group Interview
Parents share what they will do differently next school year and how they will be more proactive in helping teachers at school.

Consider this:
• Are parents fully aware of the curriculum and understand what is expected from their child/ren?
• Do parents have ongoing dialogue with teachers?

Social Capital

Exploring Key Questions
• What was school like for me?
• What do I want school to be like for my children?
• As a parent, what role do I want to play in my children’s school environment & learning process?

Consider this:
• Do parents have access to PTA?
• Are parents able to collaborate with other parents within their school or other school communities?
• Are there any other organization within the school or district that promotes parent engagement?
Language

Parental Anecdotes/Sharing

- Parents commented on how differently their responses to their children.
- Concern was raised about the impact of testing their children.

Consider this:

- Can the parents support their children’s classroom learning?
- Do the parents understand the bias in testing?
Technology

Kahoot.it An online quiz on parents' perspective on the role of parenting and setting the purpose of the parent seminar TAY

Consider this:
- Do parents know the benefit of having access to technology at home?
- Can parents access technology on their own?
Parents need to be engaged and invested in their children's educational pursuit.

Emotional Engagement → Cognitive Engagement → Social Capital Building

Emotional Engagement

Parents sharing
Activities that promote cognitive engagement
STRATEGIES
Unpacking the power of brain-based learning to parents through immersion activities.

Brain Functions: Sorting, Resorting, Prioritizing
The Role of Dendrites
Knowing How to Use Technology

PROCESS

Coaching

Orientation With ELL Parents

Roots On-The-Ground

Parent Training Workshops

Strategic Planning
Think Parents are Powerful

Communication Barrier
Languages are barriers when there is a lack of cultural understanding of the ELL student. It is essential that the students be provided with clear and concise information about their progress.

Social Capital Barrier
Stakeholders have access to other networks of parents. Family members are not aware of other parents within the school and other community networks.

Language Barrier
Can the parents support their children’s thinking and learning for academic success? For example, can parents understand the issues and critical skills in testing?

Technology Barrier
Are parents aware of the mismatch between technology use at home and in school?

For more information visit us at:
https://www.facebook.com/LetsThinKidsFoundation/

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Emotional Engagement | Cognitive Engagement | Social Capital Building

Montenegro Consulting Group (MCG)

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
English Language Learners
Administrator and Teacher Coaching
Parental Engagement
District/School Needs Assessment

Montenegro Consulting Group, LLC (MCG) specializes in:
* Training faculty, staff and students in implementing SEL seamlessly
* Working with busy and staff to better support ELLs in achieving greater academic results
* Coaching administrators and teachers to improve climate and culture of schools
* Assessing efficiency, strengths, and challenges in educational management and effectiveness
* Empowering parents to increase participation in schools and in their child’s education

Through focused planning, training, engaging breakout sessions, and as a featured keynote speaker, Dr. Hector Montenegro shares valuable knowledge, tips, and insights that will help you learn how to manage your district, school, classroom or organization more efficiently and achieve desired results. International educational training opportunities include Saudi Arabia, Chile, Peru, Uganda and El Salvador.

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