

Powerful Partnerships A Teacher's Guide to Engaging Families for Student Success

“Family Engagement in Highline Public Schools means trusting relationships, open communication, and opportunities for families and schools to partner in their students’ learning.”

Working Norms

Stay Engaged

Speak Your Truth

Experience Discomfort

Expect and Accept Non-Closure

Listen to Understand

Take Responsibility for Yourself

Adapted from Glenn E. Singleton & Curtis Linton, *Courageous Conversations about Race*

WELCOME

INTRODUCTIONS

ICE BREAKER

OVERVIEW

Over the next 7 sessions, you will be exploring the dynamics of family engagement in the classroom as you read **Powerful Partnerships: A Teacher's Guide for Engaging Families in Student Success**.

THE GOAL

To help you reflect upon and discuss family engagement in a supportive setting where you can ask questions and share experiences.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS PD

Reflect and share as much as possible and listen openly to your peers. Just as you learn daily from your students, you may also be surprised at what you can learn from yourself and each other.

Four Situations that Bring a Teacher a Sense of Well-Being and Accomplishment:

Your students are engaged and excited by what they are learning in class and are motivated to practice what they have learned.

All of our students are showing growth in academic and social-emotional benchmarks and in some way made steady progress.

You see their progress reflected in student data as well as in your observations of them in the classroom.

Your students feel more connected to their peers their teacher and their school community.

How do you personally measure success?

Can it be found within the four bulleted ideas from this chapter?

Or do you measure success differently and, if so, how?



Reflect -
Jot &
Discuss

Success Factors

- ☐ Competent, Positive Leader(s)
- ☐ Instructional Guidance and Support
- ☐ Skilled Co-Workers
- ☐ Strong Community ties
- ☐ Strong Family Ties
- ☐ Other Key Contributors

Share the factor that affects your success the most and why it has impact

No Impact

High Impact

Research Tells Us

- When Parents are Engaged and Involved Their Children Succeed.

Reflect
Jot &
Discuss

- Children's grades go up
- Children attend school more regularly
- Children are more likely to enroll in higher-level programs
- Children are more likely to graduate and go on to college
- Children are more excited and positive about school and learning
- Children have fewer discipline problems inside and outside the classroom

Do any of your personal experiences align with this research? How? If not, do you believe family engagement has the potential to have this impact? Why or why not?

Personal Reflections on Family Engagement

Reflect
Jot &
Discuss

Examples of Positive Family Relationships (What made them positive?)

Examples of Difficult Family Relationships (What made them difficult?)

As you share these relationships, consider: What similarities can you find in the positive experiences? What may have helped the difficult relationships become more positive?

Questions that may be going through your mind.

- What happens if my school leader isn't on board?
- Okay, but I already have so much on my plate!
- Sure, but what if my parents don't seem to have time?
- What if we don't speak the same language?

Reflect
Jot &
Discuss

Do any of these questions resonate with you? Why? Do you have any additional questions that may be helpful to share at this time?

Looking Ahead

- Examine Your Core Beliefs
- Harness the Power of Partnerships
- Welcome, Honor and Connect with your families
- Transform Your Family Conferences and IEP Meetings
- Maintain Strong Family Ties Throughout the Year
- Support Your work with Family- Friendly Resources

Write Down
your Initial
Reactions



What Chapter(s) has the potential to make the most impact on your teaching practice? Why? Are there any chapters that you feel apprehensive or unsure about exploring? Why?

Final Thoughts

Our goal is to strengthen your family engagement practices and, in doing so, strengthen your classroom success.



Partnering with Families will:

Contribute to your sense of accomplishment as a teacher.

Reduce your feeling of isolation – your families can act as a source of strength for you as a community that supports your work and goals of student achievement.

Break down the race and class hierarchies that have historically dominated and prevented healthy and respectful family-school relationships.

Create a productive team of allies that surround and support the child and you as the teacher.

Cultivate mutual respect and trust between home and school - when challenges do arise, they are much more easily resolved.

Transform the instinct to be defensive and break down the us-versus-them dynamic.

Reflection

Think about a time when you partnered with a family to support a student in your classroom and the impact it had on the child, on the family, and on your teaching. Then consider: What aspects of family engagement in your classroom do you hope to grow and improve?

Partnership Clip
- your colleagues
reflect



Homework

- Read Chapter 1: Examine Your Core Beliefs

Personal
Reflection

A Reflection of My Core Beliefs

School Experience:	Shaping Beliefs:	Barriers:	Commitments:
How was your family connected or not connected to your school and educational experience?	How might these past experiences, positive or negative, shape your beliefs as a teacher about family engagement?	What fears, hesitations, or apprehensions do you have about this work? What barriers will you have to overcome?	What passions, beliefs and commitments do you bring that will help you do the work

QUESTIONS

EVALUTION FORM

OPTIMISTIC CLOSURE

- What are my next steps?
- What's the next conversation I'm going to have about this, and with whom?
- What is a word or phrase that reflects how I feel about moving forward with this?