

# Building Shared Expectations For Systemic Family Engagement

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## Objectives:

- Participants will leave with awareness of best practices related to developing a family engagement system.
- They will also be more knowledgeable about the core components of building meaningful relationships and how to use consensus building as well as other planning tools.



Family engagement is an integral part of the continuous school improvement process

“If the system of education is to be successful, every aspect of the system must function in tandem with all the other parts. When any one of the system’s parts is missing or out of sync, the entire system falters. When educational systems are able to coalesce all the elements that effect student outcomes—including families, they will provide greater support to **all** students.”

## Reading a 5Essentials Report

Performance reports on the 5Essentials are made available online and shown in color-coded, easy-to-read diagrams.



Family engagement is seen as a core component of educational goals at every level of the system: national, state, intermediate service agencies, district, school classroom, home, and community

**SYSTEMIC**

Family engagement efforts are integrated across all educational areas (8 Essential Elements) and linked to student learning and healthy development.

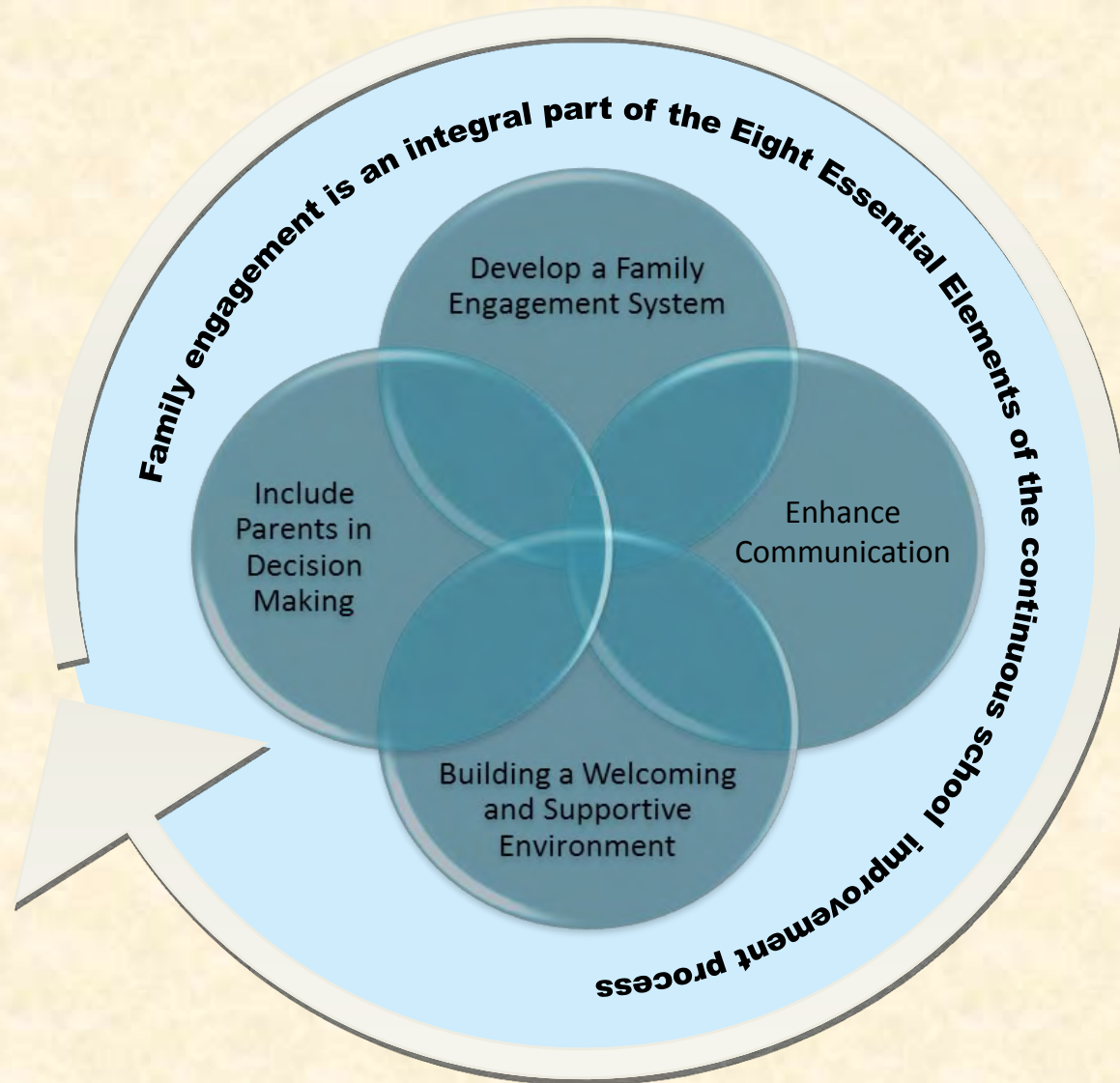
**INTEGRATED**

A long-term commitment to family engagement by leadership is backed with adequate resources and infrastructure support.

**SUSTAINED**



# ISBE Family Engagement Framework Guide Overview



From *Family Engagement Framework: A Guide for Illinois School Districts, Schools, and Families* (pp. 8-9), by Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), 2013. Copyright 2013 by the author. Draft version retrieved from the ISBE website:

[http://www.illinoisparents.org/downloads/2013\\_10\\_ISBEFEGuide.pdf](http://www.illinoisparents.org/downloads/2013_10_ISBEFEGuide.pdf). Reprinted by SEDL, an affiliate of the American Institutes of Research, with permission from the author.

# Family Engagement Framework: Principle 1



- Commitment to Family Engagement
- Leadership
- Capacity Building
- Community Partnership
- Accountability

# Family Engagement Framework Tools

- Research Review
- Family Engagement Standards for Effective Practice
- Integrating Family Engagement Matrix
- Legislative Requirements

# Working Systemically to Implement Meaningful Family Engagement

- Shared responsibility for student learning
- Seamless and continuous support for learning from birth to career
- Creation of multiple learning pathways
- Supportive culture for learning in both classroom and home
- Opportunities and processes to foster advocacy for learning
- Quality education and learning opportunities for every child

# Systemic Engagement

- Districts develop supports, policies, and accountability systems that promote engagement as an essential element for student success
- Schools effectively engage families and students in ways that impact school improvement and student outcomes
- Families partner with schools for student success and effectively advocate for their children and actively support student learning
- Students actively engage in learning and assume greater responsibility for their own achievement

One of the first steps in building momentum for any effort is to build shared understanding on key issues and concerns. For family engagement efforts to reach their maximum potential, everyone involved needs to develop shared understandings of the important issues, aspects, and considerations inherent to a successful family engagement system.

Teachers

Parents

Principals

Families

Communities

# **Educating Everyone Takes Everyone!**

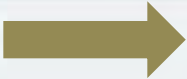
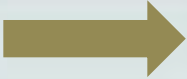
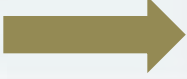
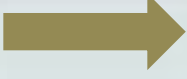
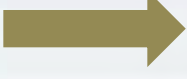
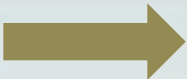
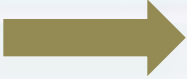
Elected Officials

Organizations

Businesses

Students

# Reframing Family Engagement

<b>Individual Responsibility</b>		<b>Shared Responsibility in Partnership</b>
<b>Deficit-Based/Adversarial</b>		<b>Strength-Based and Collaborative</b>
<b>Random Acts</b>		<b>Systemic</b>
<b>Add-On</b>		<b>Integrated</b>
<b>Events Driven</b>		<b>Learning and Outcomes Driven</b>
<b>Compliance</b>		<b>Ownership and Continuous Improvement</b>
<b>One-Time Project</b>		<b>Sustained</b>



# Commitment to Family Engagement

- Shared vision developed with all stakeholders
- Vision drives policies and practices
- Resources allocated/reallocated to support family engagement

# Commitment to Family Engagement, *cont.*

- Processes and procedures support children's learning and development at school, at home, and in the larger community
- Public has access to information about student and school performance
- Partnerships among teachers, administrators, families, and community members support student learning
- Family and community engage in making decisions about school improvement

Regarding communication and engagement mechanisms with families to assist them in supporting and participating in the **learning process** of their children:

- a. How do the district and school leadership teams ensure two-way communication for families and community, using primary language that is clear and that fosters participation?
- b. How does the district use multiple means to provide information to families?
- c. What are the district strategies for building the capacity of families to support learning at home?
- d. How are socioeconomic and language barriers addressed to maximize family engagement?

Illinois Center for School Improvement. Review of Literature to Support the Core Functions and Indicators: Core Function C District and School Continuous Improvement. Retrieved from

<https://www.illinoiscsi.org/researchandresources/Documents/Illinois%20CSI%20Core%20Function%20C%20Indicators.pdf#search=functions%20and%20indicators>, 2014.

# Leadership

- Sets tone and expectations for meaningful partnerships with families
- Ensures needed resources are available
- Models positive interactions with families
- Integrates family engagement efforts

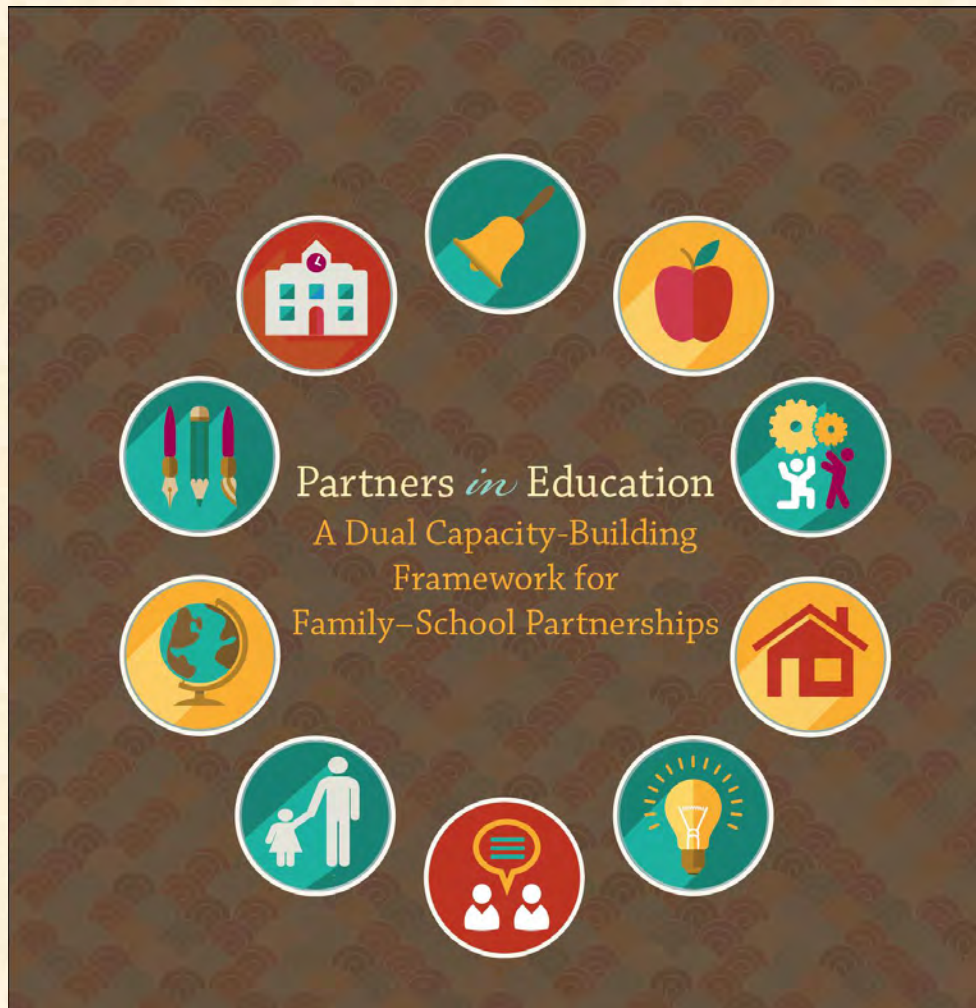
“Recognize that all parents, regardless of income, education level, or cultural background, are involved in their children’s learning and want their children to do well in school.”

When a school establishes close ties with families and the community, its educators are familiar with students' cultures and community concerns.

# Capacity Building

- Educators and families learn to partner with one another around student success
- Data are used to determine professional development needs
- Cultural differences are recognized and respected
- Family assets are promoted

# Dual-Capacity Building Framework



Continuous learning for educators and families is key to the success of family-school partnerships



Person-to-person interactions that break down misconceptions and barriers positively impact relationship building and family engagement to support student learning.

When families have caring and trustful relationships with school staff, these relationships enhance their desire to be involved and influence how they participate in their children's educational development.

# Community Partnership

- Facilitates family connection with schools
- Leverages resources to promote family engagement, address student learning and healthy development
- Coordinates family engagement efforts across multiple settings



# Accountability

- Ongoing data collection and analysis involving all stakeholders
- Continuous improvements to family engagement system informed by data and stakeholder feedback

# SMART GOALS

Specific

Measurable

Achievable/Adjustable

Relevant/Realistic

Time Bound



# Processes

- Shared vision for family engagement
- Family engagement policies and practices
- Families engaged as district- and school-improvement partners
- Continuous improvement of family engagement practice

# People

- Share vision for family engagement and place priority for interaction on student learning and healthy development
- Continuous learning for educators and families to build their capacities for and strengthen their partnership for student success

# Progress

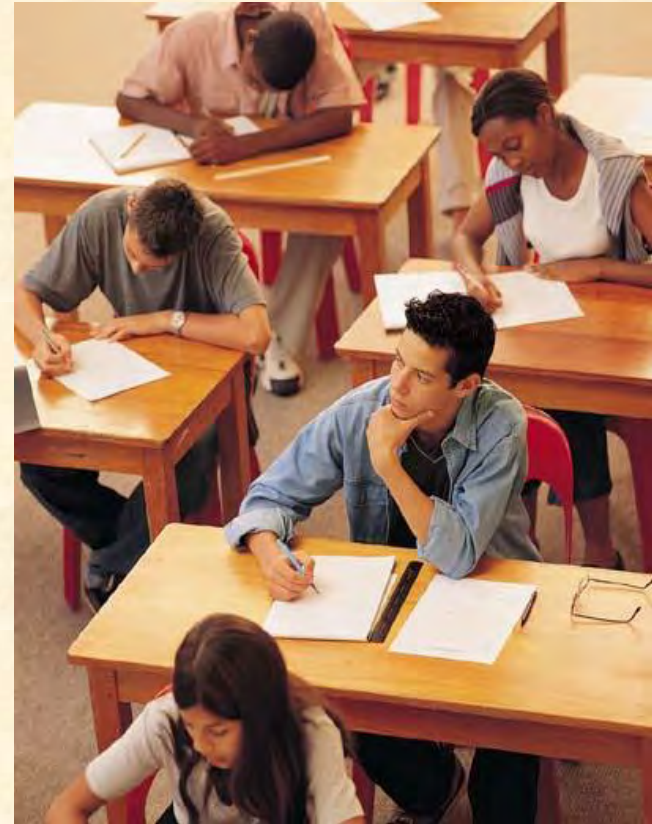
- Student learning and healthy development is supported at home, at school, and in the community
- Opportunities and processes are in place to foster advocacy for learning
- Every child receives a quality education and multiple opportunities for learning



# Impact of Family Engagement

## Students

- Do better in school
- Stay in school longer
- Attend postsecondary school



# Impact of Family Engagement, *cont.*

- “ . . . students with involved parents, no matter what their income or background, are more likely to
- have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school; and
  - graduate and go on to postsecondary education.”



# SEDL Family Engagement Tools

## A Toolkit for Title I Parental Involvement

(<http://www.sedl.org/connections/toolkit/>)

- Tool 4.4: Action Planning–Building Systemic Support for Family Engagement
- Tool 4.5: Evaluating Effectiveness–Building Systemic Support for Parental Involvement
- Tool 5.6: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Family Engagement Survey
- Tool 6.1: Parent-Friendly Information on Content Standards
- Tool 6.5: Building Collaborative Partnerships Resource

# SEDL Family Engagement Tools, *cont.*

Beyond the Building: A Facilitation Guide for School, Family, and Community Connections

(<http://www.sedl.org/pubs/catalog/items/fam40.html>)

- A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement (Pre-Assessment)

# SEDL Family Engagement Tools, *cont.*

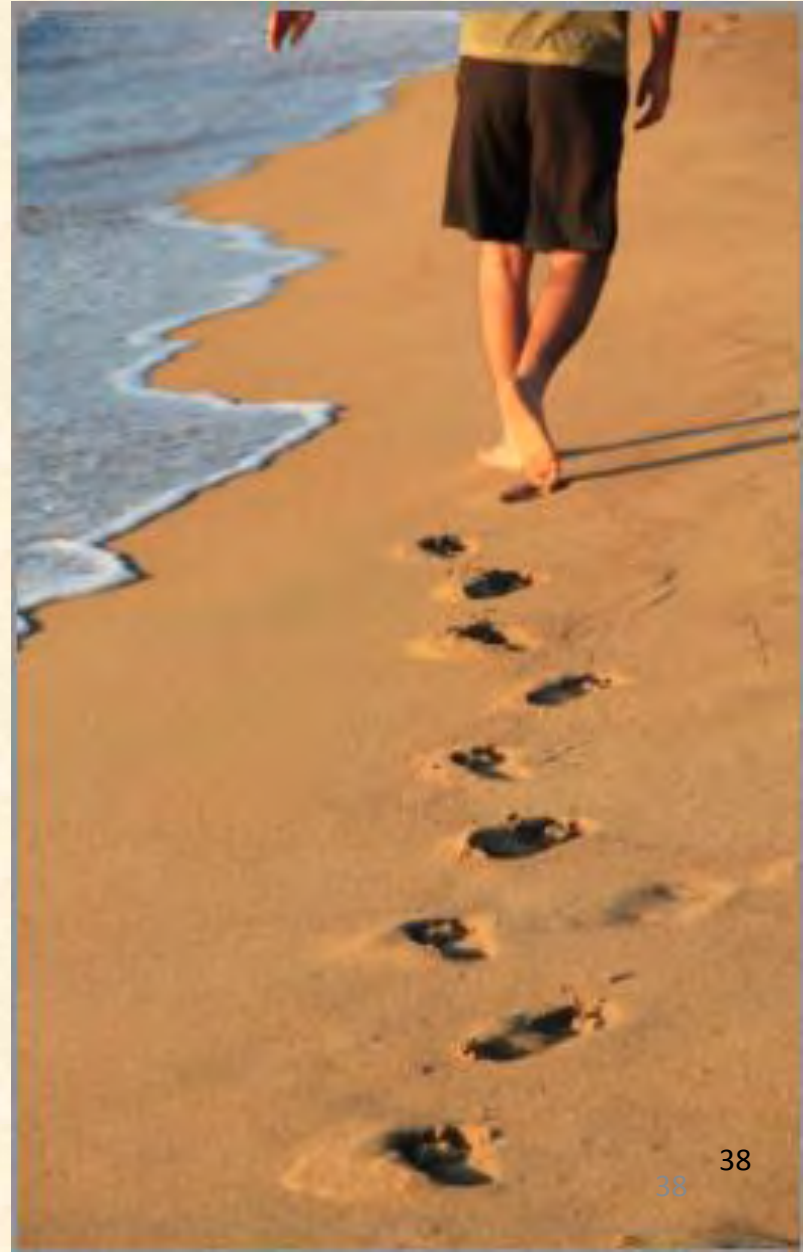
## Working Systemically In Action: Engaging Family and Community

(<http://www.sedl.org/pubs/catalog/items/family126.html>)

- Tool 1.2, Part B: Common Types of Family and Community Engagement
- Tool 2.3 Consensus Decision Making
- Tool 2.5 Definition of Family and Community Engagement
- Tool 4.1 Leadership for Family and Community Engagement
- Tool 5.1 Family and Community Engagement Implementation Assessment

# 3-2-1 Protocol

- List **3** things you learned today.
- List **2** things you want to share with someone else.
- List **1** thing you plan to do within the next week.



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# Resources

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