

Cambridge Education, LLC – Family and Community Engagement

Cambridge Education has extensive experience and expertise in supporting districts and schools to develop and actively promote community and education partner relations. We encourage all schools to adopt the philosophy of **“a school in its community, the community in the school”**. Establishing a genuine partnership and culture of mutual respect between all stakeholders is central to the transformation of low-performing schools.

We guide and support schools to implement proven strategies to promote the active involvement of students, parents/guardians and the local community. One key feature of this aspect of work is the implementation of a communication plan that regularly and effectively provides ongoing information and updates to parents, student, staff, and the community as well as engages stakeholders so they are involved and invested in the activities to transform SIG and Priority Schools into high performing schools in which student achievement is substantially raised. Other effective Family and Community Engagement strategies we promote include:

Meaningful Partnerships Approach (MPA)

Contemporary research shows that productive, positive, and meaningful relationships with parents and the community are the tipping point in moving the schools forward. This is why we believe that building into a school responsiveness and capacity to adapt to a given community, its beliefs, and the context will be a determining factor for their success. Therefore the MPA will:

- Identify a group of key stakeholders that will be the leaders of the MPA process
- Support the parent liaison and the creation of the parent action plan
- Create overall monitoring and assessment tools
- Provide guidance to support a productive collaboration between parents and the school
- Support parents with age and context-appropriate parenting tools and skills

Community Quality Review (CQR) this is a process that creates a sustainable feedback mechanism for the school that becomes a very powerful tool for transformation. What makes the CQR unique is that it’s a communication and assessment tool (parents to school) that creates a common language and understanding of what different domains of the schools should be like. A group of parents are involved in the creation of a rubric that facilitates meaningful conversations with parents.

Volunteering opportunities for parents within the school, a process that brings school staff and students together to develop opportunities for parents to be involved. CE facilitates conversations and structures the creation of these opportunities so that students and staff can create ways in which parents can work with them in ways that he/she has an opportunity to develop himself/herself as a parent, can positively impact student development and ultimately all stakeholders can internalize a true collaboration between students, school, and parents.

The following comments, from an Illinois elementary school, are typical of the positive feedback made by principals, staff and parents at the end of one year of our involvement as Lead Partner.

“The school’s leadership has placed a high priority on building a collaborative and trusting relationship with its community. Families openly share how much has changed this year and feel like they are welcome as true partners to support the school’s vision. This has motivated both parents as well as staff members to reach out and has enabled multiple instances of effective collaboration that has had a positive impact for students, including prompt interventions, referrals to support mechanisms for parents, and in-school collaboration. There are several parent volunteers actively working in classrooms.”

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