

Consortium for Educational Change (CEC)
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CEC works with schools to employ a variety of family and community engagement strategies. A key strategy that CEC has used with success in districts with SIG schools is a Partnership Council for Continuous Improvement (CCI) whose intent is to bridge the community with the schools. These councils include members from the LEA, school administration, faculty and staff, students, parents, community leaders and business owners, and are determined through a series of community forums and with invitation from the district. CEC supports the development and implementation of the CCI, provides training for CCI members, and facilitates CCI meetings. In addition, CEC helps CCIs from across the state and nationally network with one another to share best practices.

CEC is committed to helping SIG schools implement a comprehensive approach to whole child wellness, through its work as a lead partner on the Southland Education and Health Initiative. This work has given CEC a wealth of resources and knowledge on the impact of inadequate primary health, lack of parent involvement, and Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs), and effective strategies for involving the family and community to reverse this cycle.

CEC will work with the CCIs of SIG schools to develop an integrated Communications and Outreach Plan to inform, involve, and include parents, guardians, businesses, school partners, and civic and religious groups. The communication plan will convey the goals and objectives of the transformation, and will be translated as needed to fully involve parents whose first language is not English. It will identify areas where learning from the SIG school can be shared across the district, as well as with community partners, in ways that encourage opportunities to share resources more effectively throughout the schools, district and community.

In addition, CEC works with SIG schools and districts to create opportunities to engage parents, community members, and organizations, including quarterly meetings to review school performance with respect to the SMART goals, special efforts to involve hard-to-reach parents, events to welcome and inform newcomers, a range of academic and non-academic family involvement opportunities, and opportunities to use the school building for family and community meetings.