



# *Illinois State Board of Education*

2011 Parent Involvement Regional Summits

## *Welcome*

This session will begin at 3:30 PM

Today's Topic

# **Improving High School Family Engagement through Parent Support Centers**



# *Illinois State Board of Education*

2011 Parent Involvement Regional Summits

## **Improving High School Family Engagement through Parent Support Centers**

This Session is the collaborative work of:

**Illinois State Board of Education Division of Innovation & Improvement**

Academic Development Institute

Great Lakes West Comprehensive Center



# Welcome & Introduction

## *Joseph Banks*

Illinois State Board of Education

Chicago Office, Division of Innovation & Improvement

- Welcome
- Overview
- Question & Answer Time

# Today's Presenters

***Anne Coffman***

Director, Federal & State Programs  
Community High School District #218

With:

***Philip Henry,***

Associate Principal, Eisenhower High School

***Greg Walder,***

Associate Principal, Shepard High School

***Malinda Majoch,***

Associate Principal, Richards High School

# Community High School District 218

- Chicago southwest suburban area—10 communities
- Calumet Park, Blue Island, Merrionette Park, Alsip, Robbins, Crestwood, Palos Heights, Worth, Chicago Ridge, Oak Lawn
- Eisenhower, Richards, Shepard High Schools
- Title I Schoolwide Programs

# Community High School District 218

- Student Enrollment—5600
- Free/Reduced Lunch—60%
- White—40%
- Black—32%
- Hispanic—24%
- Other—4%
- Diversity of Home Languages

# Challenge: Meaningful Parent Involvement


- 2005-2008: SIP, DIP, & Title I Plans
- More than parent-teacher conferences
- Ideas from workshops
- Parental involvement research
  - Partnerships
  - Proactive, positive focus
  - Personalization
- Washington, D.C.-area high schools

# Development: Parent Liaison Positions & Parent Support Centers

- Fall 2008: Eisenhower School Improvement Team focus on parent involvement
- Winter 2009: Three Eisenhower Parent Liaisons hired
- Fall 2009: Eisenhower Parent Support Center established
- Fall 2010: Parent Liaison and Parent Support Center for Richards & Shepard



# Implementation: Parent Liaison Positions & Parent Support Centers

- Title I Targeted  Title I Schoolwide
- Key Focus Areas
  - Culture—involvement to engagement
  - Location—making room for what's important
  - Communication—multiple, varied, personal
  - Barriers---identifying and addressing

# Culture: Involvement to Engagement

- Parents' role in student success
- Introduction of parent liaison position—  
telephone, mailings, email, website
- Invitations to Parent Support Center
- Help to access student grades, school website
- Awareness of and personal invitations to  
meetings and workshops
- Encouragement to access academic support  
programs
- Personal contact for students' academic success

# Location: Parent Support Centers

- Convenient school location
- Conference table
- Computers for parent use
- Individualized training
- Informational materials
- Parent liaisons provide link to teachers, counselors, deans, extracurricular activities, etc.

# Communication: Multiple, Varied, Personal

- Parent and staff surveys
- Phone calls
- Emails
- Website
- Ongoing relationship with counseling department and deans
- Parent Support Team presence at school events

# Barriers: Identification

- Language
- Unfamiliarity with American school system
- Culture
- Uncertainty of how to get involved
- Busy with home and work responsibilities
- Feelings of intimidation

# Addressing Barriers

- Language & Culture
  - Bilingual Parent Liaison
  - Document Translation & Oral Interpretation at all parent events
  - Adult English classes
  - “Parents Helping Parents” —We share the same concerns and experiences

# Addressing Barriers

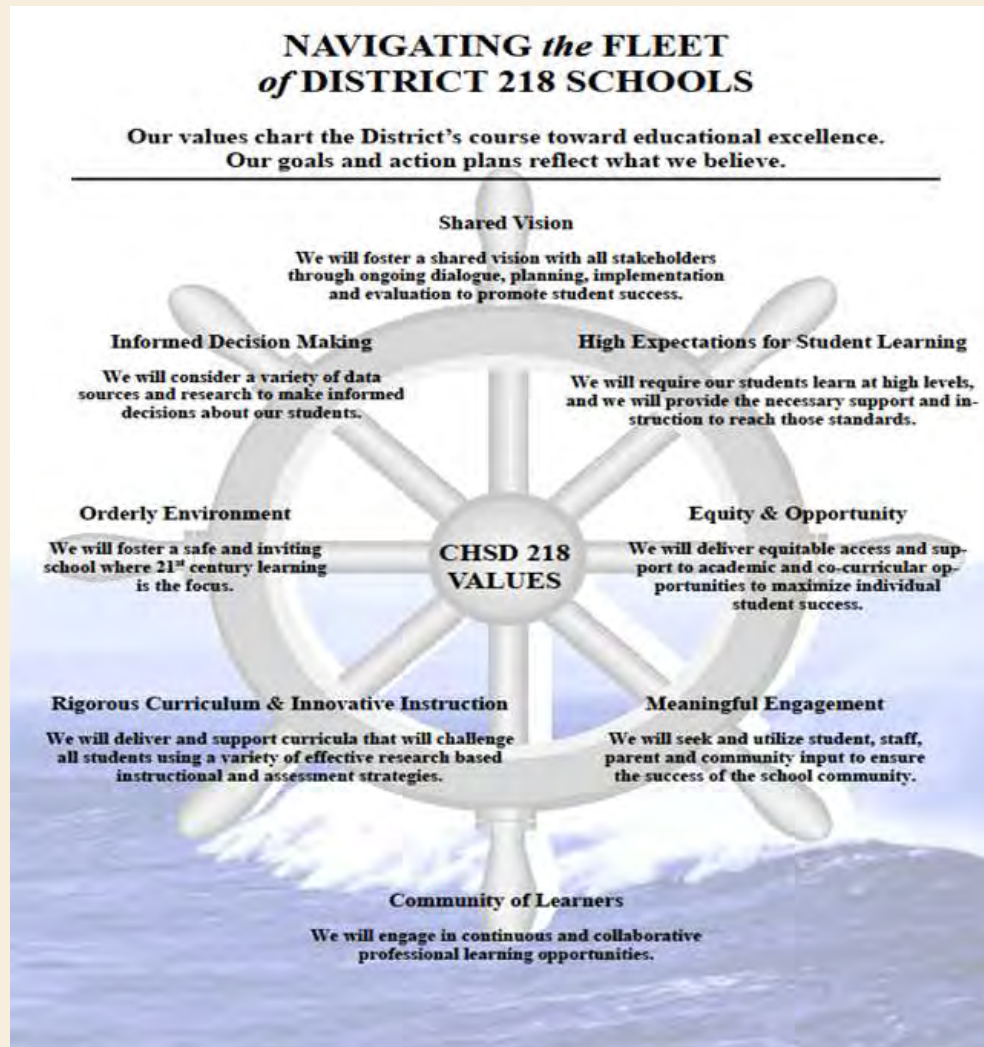
- Unfamiliarity with American school system
  - Workshop series—Navigating the American Educational System, Pathways to Academic Excellence, Career Cruising for Parents
- Uncertainty of how to get involved
  - Title I Advisory Council
  - Fathers' Forum
  - Volunteering at parent events
  - Training (computer classes, English classes)

# The proof is in the numbers...

Events	Dates	Attendance
Navigating the American Educational System	April, June, 2010; Sept., Feb., 2011; Sept., 2011	15-25 at each series
Adult English Classes	Sept.-Nov. & Feb.-April 09-10, 10-11, 11-12	25-75 at each session
Computer Classes	2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012	30 per class
Pathways to Academic Excellent Workshops	September, December, March, 2010-2011, 2011-2012	50 per workshop
Career Cruising for Parents	November, 2011	40
Fathers' Forum	3-4 times per year—09-10, 10-11, 11-12	50 dads enrolled—attendance 10-25
Parent Support Center	2009-2012	100-500 parents



# Community High School District 218 Values



“The answer is to stop treating parents like ‘clients’ and start treating them like ‘partners’ in helping children learn.”

John H. Wherry,  
President, The Parent Institute  
Fairfax, Virginia

# Questions

**Ask your question in one of two ways:**

- Click on the hand icon to raise your hand
- Type your question into the Question Box

# 2012 Webinar Schedule

*Improving High School Family Engagement through  
Social and Emotional Learning*

**February 23, 2012**

*How to get Families Engaged in an Early Childhood  
Setting*

**March 2, 2012**

*Parent Involvement in High Poverty Schools*

**March 22, 2012**

# Wrap Up

# Contact Information

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All 2012 webinar sessions are recorded and will be posted to IllinoisParents.org website