

# Moving Beyond Checklists: Building Strong Schools and Improve Student Outcomes

ISBE's Comprehensive Framework for Engaging Families



# Why are We Here Today?

- Welcome
- Purpose
- Walkaways for this presentation



# Why Do We Partner with Families?

When families, schools and communities partner on promoting learning and healthy development for all children, schools thrive and student outcomes increase.  
(Henderson & Mapp, 2002)



# Why Do We Partner with Families?

Research shows that schools strong on the five essentials are ten times more likely to improve student learning than schools weak on the five essentials.

## Reading a 5Essentials Report

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

SAMPLE:



# Why Do We Partner with Families?

Of all the grants in the consolidated application, Title I has the most legislation and resources dedicated to engage families in meaningful ways.

USDE Provisions in the ESEA Act for family engagement include:

- Title I: Part A: Section 1118
- Title II
- Title III: Section 3302
- Title IV: Part B
- IDEA



# What is Meaningful Family Engagement

Shared responsibility for the academic, physical, social, emotional, and behavioral development of youth

Fostered through a deliberate process

Empowers adults to jointly support student growth, addresses any barriers to learning, and ensures college and career readiness.



# Where: Alignment with the Continuous School Improvement Process



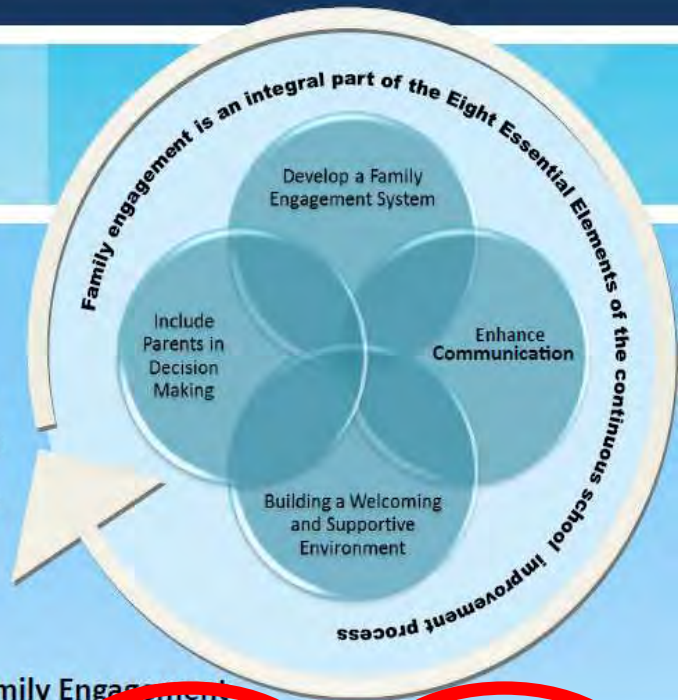
We engage families as partners in all aspects  
of building effective schools



# How We Engage Families

## How to engage families cont.

Districts and schools partner with families by developing family engagement systems, building welcoming and supportive environments, enhancing communication and including parents in decision making. The ways families are engaged occur on a regular basis and are seen across the 8 Essential Elements of effective education. When families, communities, and schools partner to build educational and support systems for children, those systems are stronger and more effective.



## Principles for Family Engagement

### Develop a Family Engagement System

Standards Summary:

- Includes a shared vision that drives policies and practices
- Connects to district and school improvement

### Build a Welcoming and Supportive Environment

Standards Summary:

- Acknowledges a shared responsibility for learning and healthy development of students
- Establishes relational trust

### Enhance Communication

Standards Summary:

- Promotes ongoing meaningful two-way exchange of information
- Ensures communication is clear and constructive

### Include Parents in Decision Making

Standards Summary:

- Empowers parents to be involved
- Solicits input from families includes parents in the district/school continuous





# Family Engagement Framework Guide

- Overall Purpose
- Components
  - Family Engagement Framework Overview
  - Research Review
  - Family Engagement Standards
  - Integrating Family Engagement Matrix
  - Legislative Requirements/References



Chicago, IL—Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Parent Knitting Class at Davis School is working on headbands they donated to the St. Jude Hospital for children who have been diagnosed with cancer.



# Family Engagement Standards: Principal 1



## Develop a Family Engagement System

### Standards Summary:

- Includes a shared vision that drives policies and practices
- Connects to district and school improvement process
- Coordinates and integrates into existing structures and processes
- Families' socio-cultural, linguistic, and educational needs are incorporated into improvement plans
- Provides support and guidance from leaders from development to implementation
- Allocates/reallocates resources
- Collects and utilizes data
- Builds capacity
- Partners with families
- Collaborates with community organizations



# Working Systemically to Engage Families

- 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

## Tools and Resources

**US Department of Education's** Dual Capacity Framework

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2014/04/department-of-education-releases-new-parent-and-community-engagement-framework/>

**SEDL's** Working Systemically in Action: Engaging Family & Community Toolkit

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

**Harvard Family Research Project** research report

<http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/publications-resources/professional-development-in-family-engagement-a-few-often-overlooked-strategies-for-success>

# Questions and Answers



# Family Engagement Standards: Principal 2



## Build a Welcoming Environment

### Standards Summary:

- Acknowledges a shared responsibility for the academic, physical, social, emotional, and behavioral development of youth
- Builds relational trust
- Develops supports for families to be an active part for their child's learning and healthy development
- Responds to student and family needs
- Share student accomplishments



Creating the  
Welcoming  
Environment

- Relational Trust
- Outreach
- Responsiveness

# Tools and Resources

**The Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCD)**

<http://www.abcdinstitute.org/>

**Search Institute's** framework of Family Assets

<http://www.search-institute.org/research/family-strengths>

**Academic Development Institute** indicators for school success

<http://www.indistar.org/VideoPlayer/Videos.aspx?VideoGroupID=27>



# Questions and Answers



# Family Engagement Standards: Principal 3



## Enhance Communication

### Standards Summary:

- Ensures that communication is clear, constructive, and ongoing
- Provides information pertaining to parental rights.
- Links communication student learning and healthy development
- Communicate district/school/classroom policies and practices.



# Effective Pathways to Communicate

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?

## Tools and Resources

**Harvard Family Research Project** addresses home-school communication and provides power point, trainer's guide and other workshop resources.

<http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/home-school-communication-what-s-all-the-commotion#practice>

# Questions and Answers



# Family Engagement Standards: Principal 4



## **Include Parents in Decision Making**

### Standards Summary

- Empowers parents to be involved in the decision-making process
- Solicits input from families
- and take it into account when making decisions
- Invite parent opinions on school climate
- Include parents in the continuous improvement process
- Jointly develops and reviews programming for families to support student learning and healthy development
- Encourage parents to participate in any problem-solving discussions related to their child



## Include Parents in Decision- Making

- Parent-Child Advocacy
- Implementing Early Interventions
- Partnering Families to Develop Programs and Policies
- Using Family Input to Build Relational Trust
- Playing a Role in Building Parent Capacity in Data Analysis

# Tools and Resources

**Georgia Department of Education** provides resources for Designing Effective Opportunities that make parent input count.

<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/Designing%20Effective%20Opportunities.zip>



Stories from  
the Field:  
East St. Louis  
SD 189

**Dr. Jeanette Dear,**  
**Director of Federal Programs**  
**East St. Louis School District:**  
Reviewing the District Policy  
with parent leaders to set the  
stage for a sustainable district  
approach. Relationship



# Questions and Answers



# Additional Resources

## Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)

- Learning Supports: <http://www.isbe.net/learningsupports/html/partnerships.htm>
- Common Core: [http://www.isbe.net/common\\_core/htmls/resources.htm](http://www.isbe.net/common_core/htmls/resources.htm)
- Special Education: <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/parents.htm>
- Innovation and Improvement:  
[http://www.isbe.net/grants/pdf/parent\\_involvement\\_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/grants/pdf/parent_involvement_guide.pdf)
- Illinois School Report Card: <http://www.illinoisreportcard.com/>

## Be Strong Families

Be Strong Families is a partner and administrative home of Strengthening Families Illinois. We are a group of caring, passionate, dedicated people who are building a better world by helping families strengthen themselves. We provide consulting, training, parent-to-parent events, and resources. Connect with us [here](#).

## SEDL

[http://www.sedl.org/expertise/family\\_community.html](http://www.sedl.org/expertise/family_community.html)

Families and communities play an integral role in children's school success. The Family and Community section of SEDL's website links people with research-based information and resources that they can use to effectively connect schools, families, and communities.

## Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP)

<http://www.hfrp.org/out-of-school-time/publications-resources?topic=30>

HFRP promotes strategies to support family engagement in children's learning and development. The website provides research, evaluation and assessment tools

## USDE Youth For Youth After School Network

<http://y4y.ed.gov/>

The site helps OST providers connect and share resources, provides professional learning and technical assistance opportunities, and offers tools for improving program practices. 1



**Thank you for participating!**

We can help you to build strong  
school communities  
within the schools you serve.

For more information contact  
Sarah Ogeto at [sogeto@isbe.net](mailto:sogeto@isbe.net)



Illinois State  
Board of Education

