



Illinois State Board of Education

2011 Parent Involvement Regional Summits

Welcome

This session will begin at 3:30 PM

Today's Topic

**Attending to the Social and Emotional Needs
of Low SES Students and Families: An
Effective Approach to Raising Student
Achievement**



Illinois State Board of Education

2011 Parent Involvement Regional Summits

Attending to the Social and Emotional Needs of Low SES Students and Families: An Effective Approach to Raising Student Achievement

This Session is the collaborative work of:

Illinois State Board of Education Division of Innovation & Improvement

Harold Washington Elementary

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

Questions

The presenter will respond to your questions after the presentation.

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

All 2012 webinar sessions are recorded and posted to the *Tool Box* page at *IllinoisParents.org*

Welcome to
IllinoisParents.org
Resources for Families and Schools to Strengthen School Communities

HOME RESOURCES FOR PARENTS RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMUNITY JOURNAL ILLINOIS ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENTS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT TOOL

Provided for Illinois Families and Schools
by the Illinois State Board of Education's Division of Innovation and Improvement

Tool Box

Family Engagement Webinar Series

- New! Improving High School Family Engagement through Social Emotional Learning**
(Click here to start presentation)
Download Powerpoint
SEL Presenters Information (PDF)
- New! Improving High School Family Engagement through Parent Support Centers**
(Click here to start presentation)
Download Powerpoint
Webinars Qs & As (PDF)
- Creating a Welcoming Place**
(Click here to start presentation)
Download Powerpoint
- Parent Involvement Resources for IL Families and Schools**
(Click here to start presentation)
Download Powerpoint
- School-Home Communication**
(Click here to start presentation)
Download PowerPoint
- Parent Involvement as a Collaborative Process**
(Click here to start presentation)
Download PowerPoint

Parent Involvement in Action Series

Discover creative applications of research-based practices. Read about the innovative strategies other schools across the country have implemented to successfully engaged parents in their children's learning. Become acquainted with the free resources available to your school through the Parent Involvement Analysis online tool.

Select from dropdown

Share IllinoisParents.org with your Families

- Presentation Introduction**
Use this PowerPoint™ presentation as an orientation tool for the families you serve at your next Parent meeting.
(Click here to download)
- Informational Brochure**
Created specifically with parents in mind, this brochure helps families discover tip sheets, parent student activities, and other parenting information.
(Click here to download and print)
- Link to IllinoisParents.org**
You can link your families to resources on raising and educating their children by placing a link to IllinoisParents.org on your school or district website.

Family Engagement Tool Orientation

- Orientation to FET Online Tool**
(Family Engagement Tool)
For administrators, school staff and school team members. This Webinar will help schools in the development of the family engagement components for their School Improvement Plans.
(Click here to start the recorded presentation)
(Click here to view PowerPoint)

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Today's Presenter

Dr. Sandra Lewis

**Principal, Harold Washington Elementary School,
Chicago Public Schools, District 299**

Dr. Sandra F. Lewis spent her first 18 years in a housing project in Chicago, Illinois. She began her teaching career in the Chicago Public Schools system in 1967, teaching for ten years before becoming an assistant principal/counselor in the same community. In 1990 Dr. Lewis became principal of Harold Washington School and remains the principal there.

As principal, she changed the culture and climate of the school and community from one that was infiltrated with gangs and low achievement to one that has received many awards for its outstanding school climate, innovative programs, and academic achievement gains.

Our Mission Statement

Our mission at Harold Washington Elementary School is to initiate the educational process through the development of social skills, social emotional health and self-worth that foster an appreciation for and understanding of all art forms. We foster student growth through the development of math, social science, language arts, science and technology with an emphasis on reading and writing across content areas. We immerse our students in fine and performing arts to ensure that all students have an opportunity to discover and appreciate their talents.

Mission, cont.

We draw upon our fine arts programming to teach our students to think innovatively, to prepare them to compete in a technology-driven economy global market, making them aware of political, social and cultural issues across the globe, and to express their awareness of global issues through various artistic mediums. We, as stakeholders (TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, STAFF, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS), collaborate and build teams to provide authentic learning activities to ensure all that all students become lifelong learners.

Personal Philosophy

“I often asked my mother how she was able to deal so effectively with eight children as a single parent. Her answer has stayed with me until this day. She said that she always dealt with the child or children that needed her the most at the time. I have carried this philosophy with me as principal who has to meet the needs of many parents, teachers, and students.”

Dr. Sandra Lewis

Harold Washington Elementary

- Student Enrollment—556
- Free/Reduced Lunch—98%
- Attendance: 97%
- Mobility: 30%
- Homeless: 13%
- White—0%
- Black—99.9%
- Hispanic—0%
- Other—0.1%
- ISAT 2010-2011
 - **Reading 76%**
 - **Math 85%**

Getting to Know Families

- New Parent & Family Orientation
- Monitoring Attendance
- Parent Report Card
- Family Picture Hall of Fame
- Parent Recognition Award Ceremony
- Open Door Policy
- Welcoming environment
- Grade Level Parent Meetings

Getting to Know Students

- Principal orientation with all new students and families
- Placement test for all students to ensure that students receive instruction that meet their needs
- Personally introducing parents and students to their new classmates
- Vision and Hearing Screening

Getting to Know Students, cont.

- Health Screenings
- Extra-Curricular Activities (sports, dance, art and music)
- Counseling: individual and group
- Store: provide free uniforms, supplies, and coats for students in need
- Monthly attendance assemblies (incentives prizes and free bike)
- Staff support for students who have emotional problems
- Providing free breakfast, lunch and dinner when possible to all students
- Applied for and received a \$30,000 grant to serve student fresh fruit and vegetables during the week

Involve the Community

- Invite community into the school to utilize computers and library
- Instituted a Grandparent club
- Work with Community Organizations: faith based and political
- Encourage former students to volunteer in the school
- Created a Community Park on school grounds
- Invite speakers to address needs of parents and community
- Encourage community members to patrol school grounds at entrance and exit times

Involving the Community

- Recognition of contributions made to the community that support student needs
- Hiring community members to work in the school
- Partnerships with agencies that support the school program such as:
 - Book Worm - Provides free books annually to every student
 - Concerned Christian Men - Meet with male students twice a week to provide male mentoring for student's grade 4-8

Develop an Excellent School Staff and Curriculum

- Create a school environment that teaches students about their heritage and the positive contributions made by African Americans
- Hire staff member who want to deal with the whole child
- Get rid of teachers who cannot support student learning
- Wired school to support over 250 computers in the classroom and media center
- Instituted two integrated learning systems to provide for individual student needs
- Spend at least fifty percent of the day out of the office to work with students and parents on areas to support the school's curriculum

Purpose

“ Although many schools spend time dealing with the lack of parent involvement, their efforts to gain parental support is not often achieved. As an administrator, I have found that parents who believe that the school is there to support their children, especially in areas that families are not equipped to provide, often make every effort to help improve school wide achievement. In schools that provide needed support for students, student attendance increases, students wear their school uniforms, the need for discipline decreases and student achievement increases. Parents call these schools “good schools” and are proud that their children are members of the school.”

Dr. Sandra Lewis

Contact Information

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