



BOULDER VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Strengthening School-Family Partnerships
District Parent Council
April 15, 2020

The research is in... family partnerships matters!

1. **Reduced drop-out rates**
2. Higher graduation rates
3. **Increased student achievement**
4. Reduced absenteeism
5. **Better student attitudes towards learning**
6. Stronger social skills
7. **Less discipline issues**
8. Better student-teacher relationships
9. **Higher trust in schools**
10. Stronger levels of cultural competence for staff

Source: Research summary by the Flamboyant Foundation - *"Family Engagement Matters"*



Involvement vs. Partnership: What's The Difference?

Involvement

- One-way
- School-designed activities
- Exclusive
- Do “to”
- Select group of active parents or families

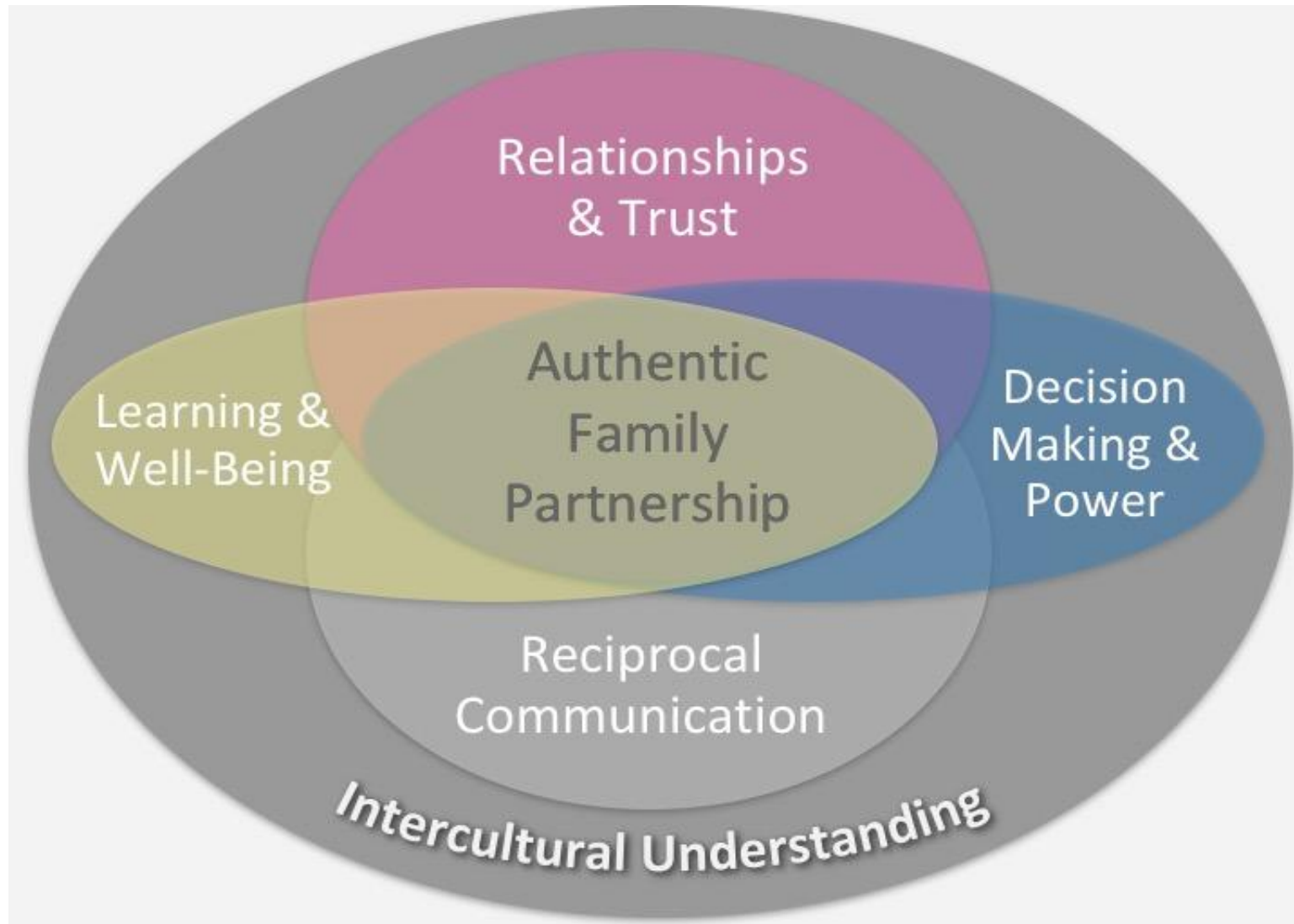
Partnerships

- Two-way
- Co-created activities
- Inclusive
- Do “with”
- Partnership, working-together

*Adapted from Scholastic's “Foundations of Family Engagement”



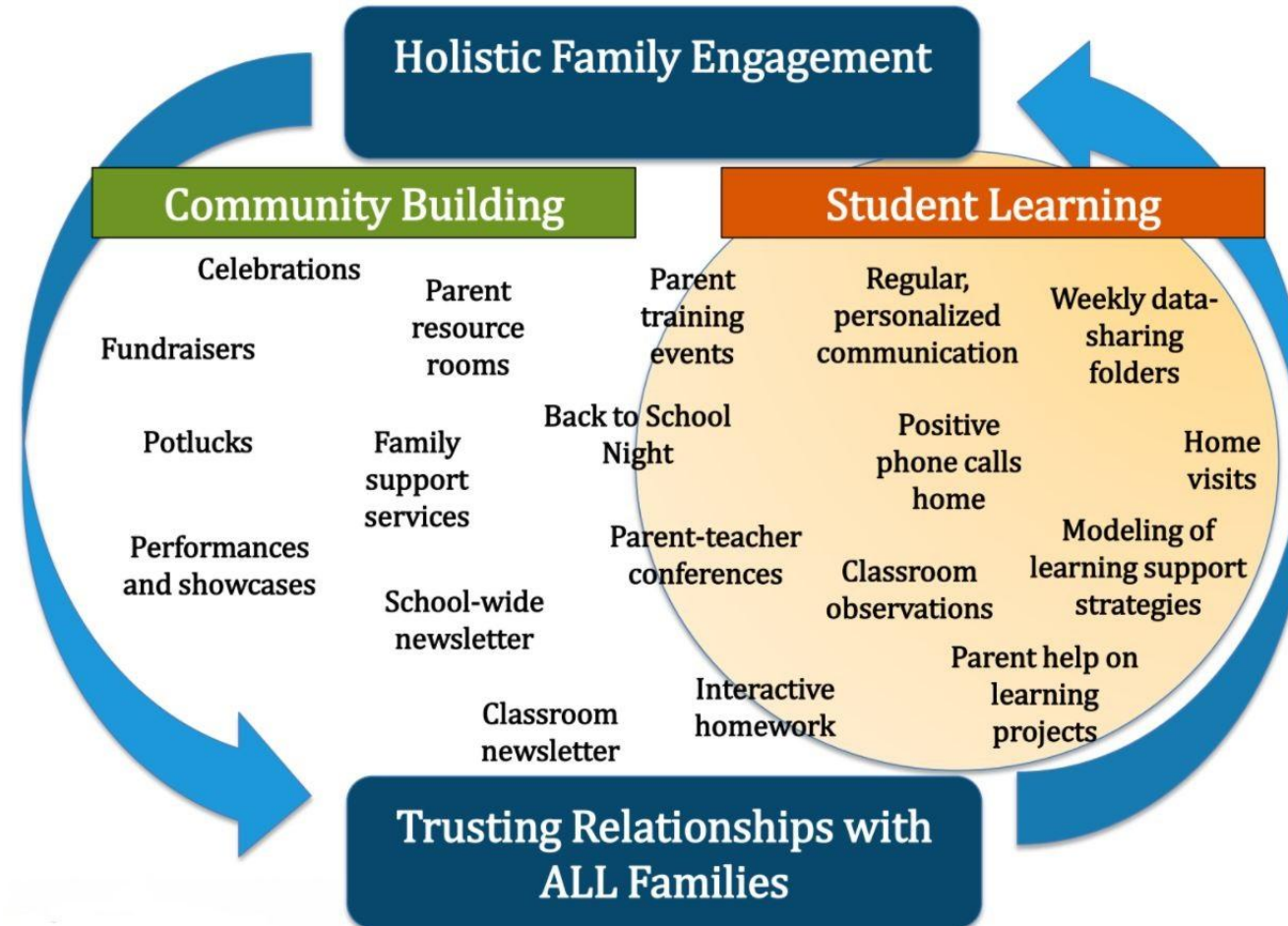
BVSD Four Pillars for Family Partnerships



Impact of Family Engagement Strategies On Student Learning

Lower
impact

Higher
impact



Family Partnerships Key Projects

- Home Visits - 180+ educators and school leaders trained and participating



Latino Parent Advisory Council (CAPL)





Promising Partnerships Practices

2019

1. Families Educators Together (FET)
2. Latino Parent Advisory Council (CAPL)
3. Bridging the Digital Divide
4. PARITY
5. Convening of Latinx Allies
6. Community Roundtables

A collection of initiatives from districts and schools about working with families and community partners for student learning



Other Important Initiatives

- PD for stakeholders: Principals, New Educators, Office Professionals, PTO, 360 Leaders
- Equity & Partnerships Blog for BVSD Educators
- Developing our Culturally Responsive Framework for initiative 6a

Priorities Since Home Learning Commenced

- Accelerating the “Bridging the Digital Divide” efforts
- Delivering essentials to 400-600 of our most impacted families
- FAMILY HELP LINE 770 0102 ...Positive Communication Systems



BVSD Equity Commitments

- removing institutional barriers to success
- providing intentional support for each student, staff member and family or community member so that each has opportunity to achieve at the highest levels
- embracing and respecting the dignity and diversity of each individual within our community
- questioning assumptions and examining our own biases
- challenging systems of power and oppression
- creating counter-narratives to the common habits and assumptions that inhibit inclusion
- confronting discrimination against our own or another person's identity
- committing to building our own and others' capacity for culturally responsive teaching, learning, and leading



[“Involving Families: A Relationship Centered Approach”](#)

by Ari Gerzon-Kessler

Educational Leadership magazine, January 2020

[“BVSD looking at stronger family partnerships to help close achievement gap”](#) in *Daily Camera*,
November 2019





BVSD Family Partnerships

October 17, 2018



“The more the relationship between families and the school is a real partnership, the more student achievement increases. When schools engage families in ways that are linked to improving learning, students make greater gains. When families are engaged in positive ways, rather than labeled as problems, schools can be transformed from places where only certain students prosper to ones where all children do well.”

- from *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*





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The Different Ways that Families Engage

It's not just about who shows up at school.

Seven roles families play when they are engaged:

1. **Supporters** of their children's learning
2. **Encouragers** of an achievement identity, positive self-image, and a “can-do” spirit
3. **Monitors** of their children's time, behavior, boundaries and resources
4. **Models** of lifelong learning and enthusiasm for education
5. **Advocates** for improved learning opportunities for their children and at their school
6. **Decision-makers** and choosers of educational options for their child, school and community
7. **Collaborators** with school staff and members of the community.

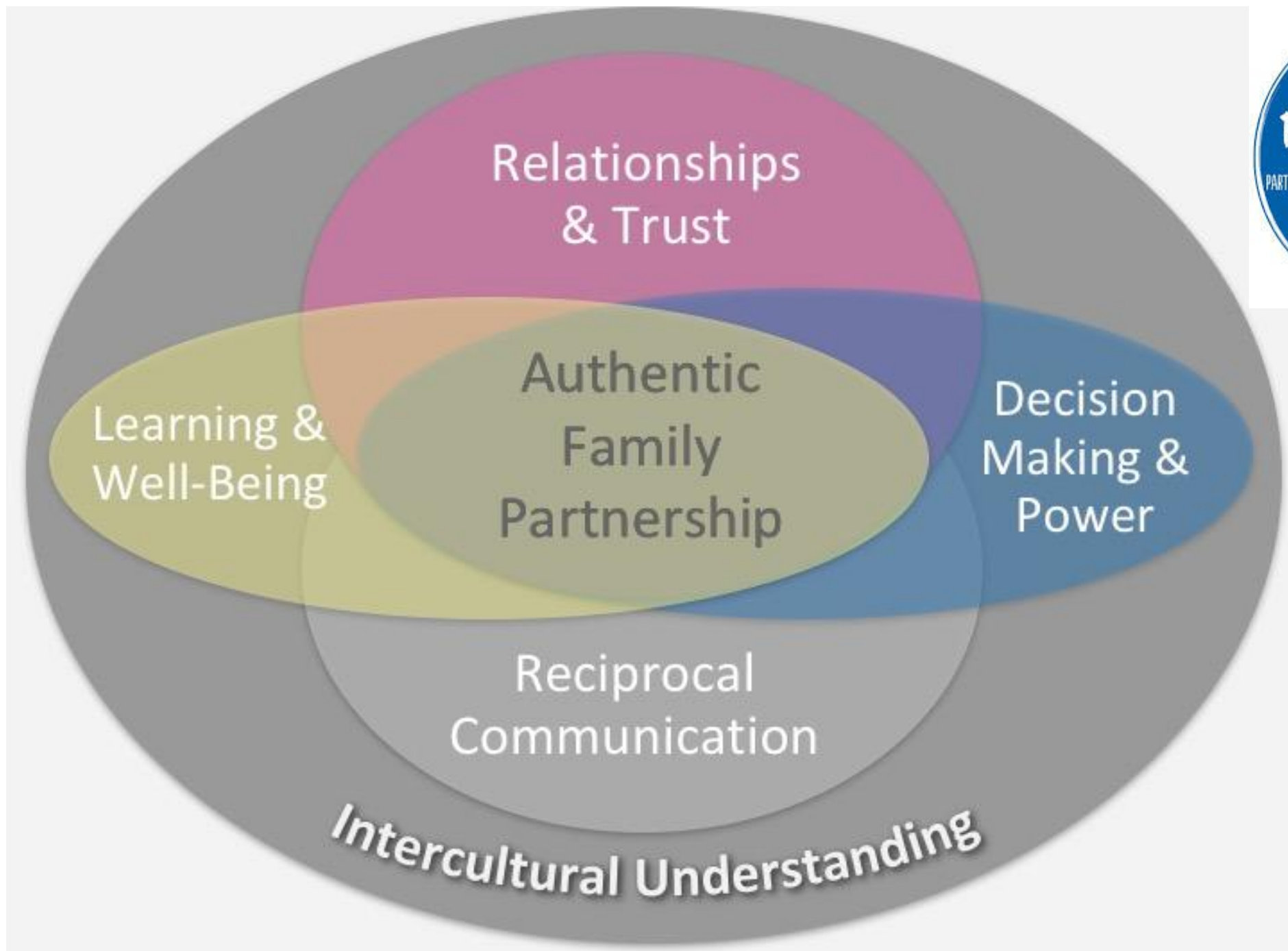


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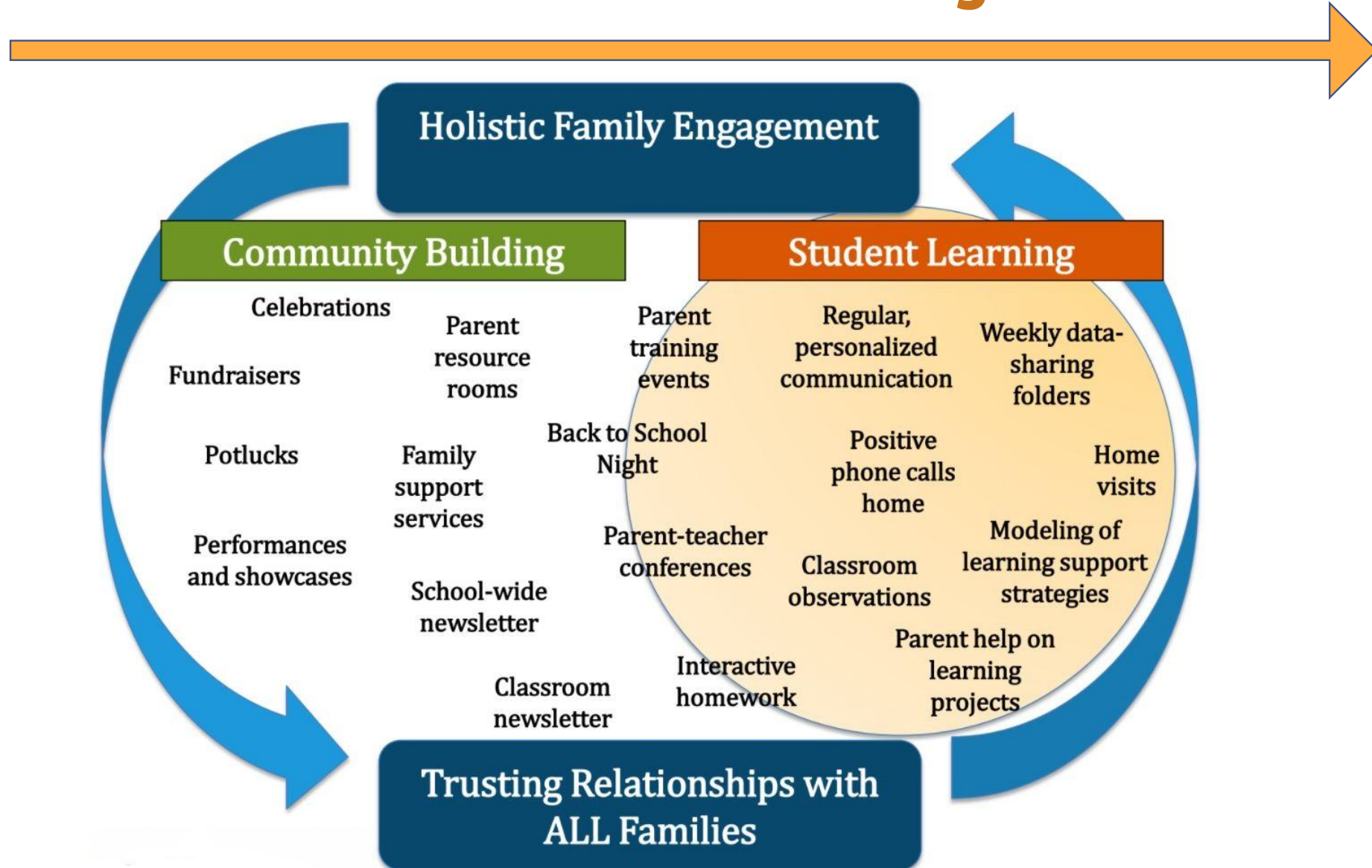
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Other Important Initiatives

- Positive Communication Systems
- PD for stakeholders: Principals, New Educators, Office Professionals, PTO, etc.
- CU/Renee Crown Institute Partnership
- Latino Parent Summit
- Bilingual Family Retreat
- ISE Blog for Educators

