

Topic

# A Shared Vision for Family Engagement

Evanston/Skokie D65: *SEPAC Meeting*  
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## Big Ideas

- Defining Family Engagement
- Reframing Family Engagement
- Family Engagement in Your District
- How Can You Partner?

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What is something unique about your family that your child's teacher would be surprised to know?

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## Defining Family Engagement

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## Involvement vs. Engagement

- **INVOLVEMENT:** to enfold, wrap around, cover or envelop  
Involvement implies **"doing to."**
- **ENGAGEMENT:** to come together; to interlock  
Engagement implies **"doing with."**

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## Examining Differences

### INVOLVEMENT

- 1-way communication
- School-designed activities
- Exclusive
- Do "to"
- Select group of families or active parents

### ENGAGEMENT

- 2-way communication
- Co-created activities
- Inclusive
- Do "with"
- Partnership, working together

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## Definitions of Family Engagement

- **Family Engagement** is any way that a child's adult caretaker (biological parents, foster parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.) effectively supports learning and healthy development at home, at school, and in the community. (Karen Mapp)
- Family Engagement is a **full, equal,** and **equitable** partnership among families, educators and community partners to promote children's learning and development from birth through college and career. (State of CT)

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## What do we mean by Family Engagement?



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# Reframing Family Engagement

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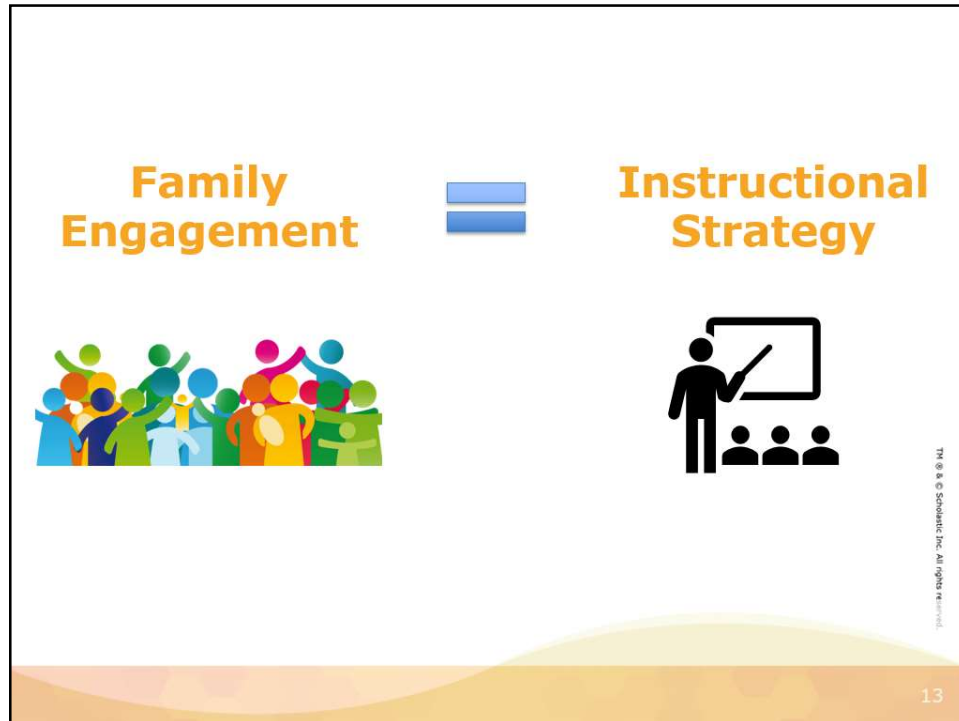
Team Goal

Team Strategy

Is Family Engagement a Goal or a Strategy?

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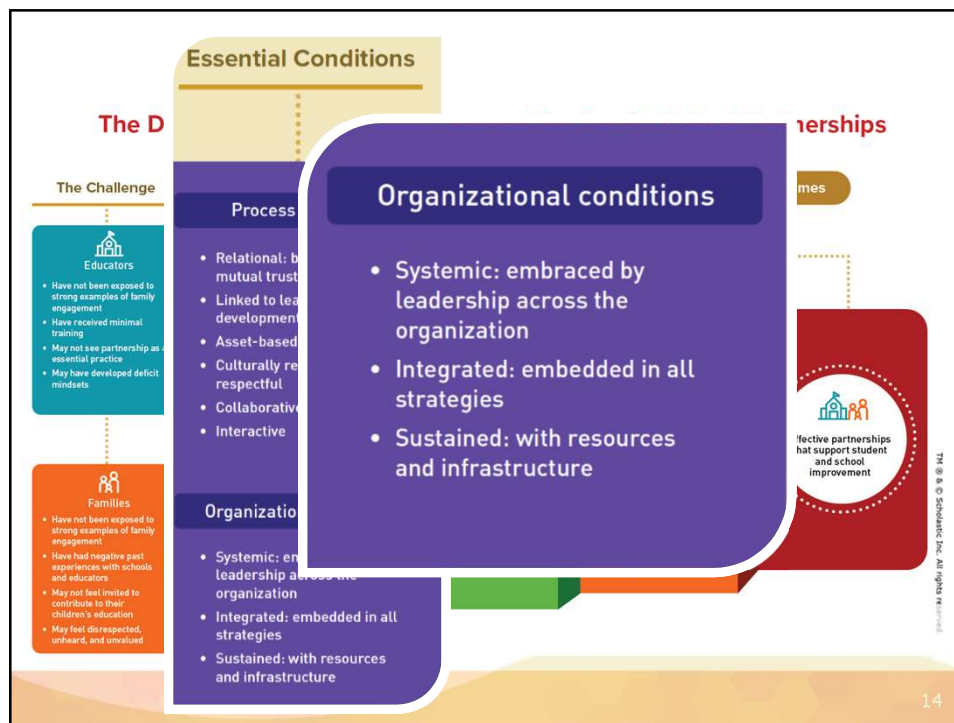
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## Students with Engaged Families...

- Exhibit faster rates of **literacy** acquisition
- Earn **higher grades** and test scores
- Enroll in **higher level** programs
- Are promoted more and earn **more credits**
- Adapt better to school and **attend** more regularly
- Have **better social skills** and behavior
- **Graduate** and go on to higher education

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## A New Way of Thinking About Family Engagement

Moving **from** Program **to** Practice

Moving **from** Informing **to** Empowering

Moving **from** Isolated **to** Integrated

Moving **from** Extra **to** Essential

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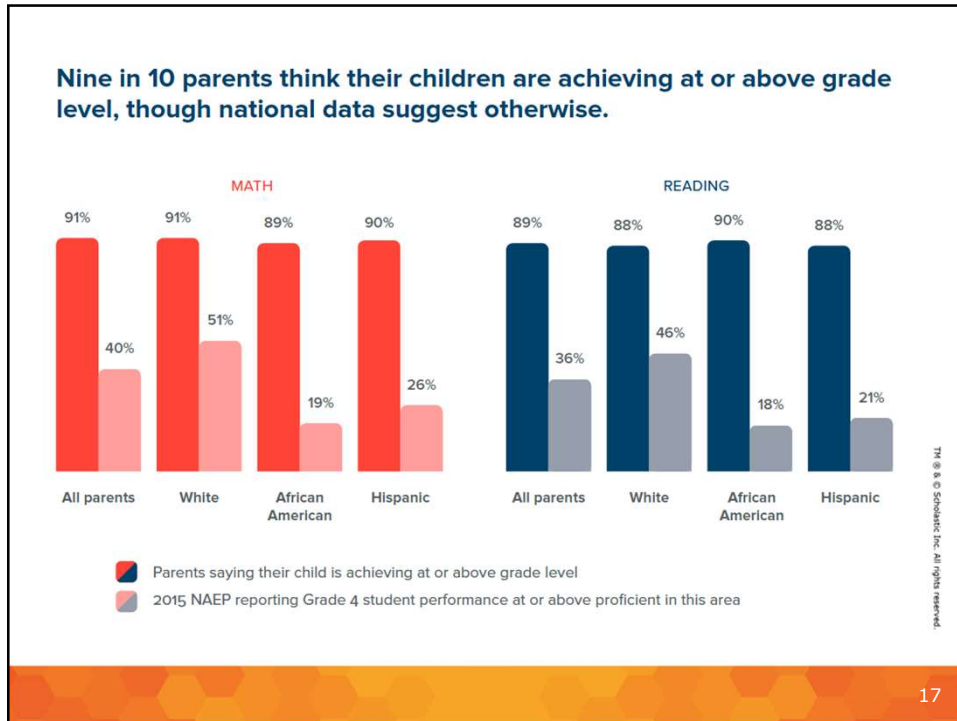


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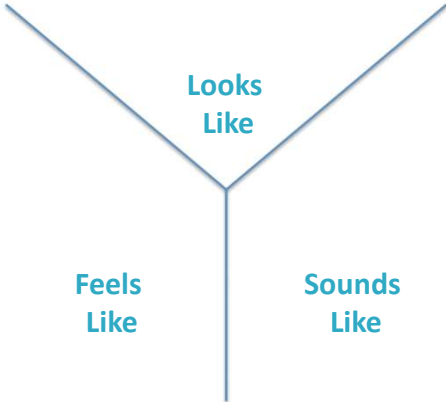


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## Defining Partnership Between Families and Staff in D65

Looks Like

Feels Like

Sounds Like

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## How Can You Partner?

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## Effective Partnership Strategies!

- Offer your **knowledge and talents**
- **Co-plan** events/workshops
- Build your **capacity to partner** in support of student achievement:
  - Know what **your child should know and be able to do** by the end of the year
  - Know **how well** your child is doing
  - Know what to do at home to **support and monitor** your child's learning
- Expect that schools **want** you to be engaged
- Believe that you **can** effectively engage
- Overcome barriers **together**



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## Moving Forward



How can SEPAC advance this work more broadly in the district?

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