

Family Engagement Framework Elements



1. **Assessing Strengths and Barriers-** A collaborative strengths-based process of assessing strengths and barriers is an important first step in the creation of a family engagement action plan. The process itself is an opportunity for listening and learning that can bring the community together and build trust, establishing common understanding of family engagement and common goals.
2. **Confronting Injustice and Acknowledging Intersectionality in order to Address Inequities Equity** -is achieved when all students and families thrive, and success is no longer dependent on socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, family make up, and other factors. An equitable program of family engagement cannot be achieved without first confronting injustice and acknowledging the role of intersectionality.
3. **Allocating Resources to Build and Sustain Capacity for Family Engagement** - The allocation of resources including money and time demonstrate the values of an organization. Without these resources, family engagement efforts will be empty and unsustainable. For example, a commitment to the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and anti-racism, must be supported by the allocation of resources to support that work.
4. **Systematically Building Positive/Trusting Relationships-** This means that school systems and processes are built in a way that intentionally support ongoing relationship building and incorporate feedback loops that demonstrate responsiveness and build trust.
5. **Establishing Equitable Leadership and Shared Responsibility-** A school with equitable leadership and shared responsibility has family engagement that goes beyond symbolic gestures to true co-creation. This element goes beyond the education of individual students and seeks to transform schools and systems.
6. **Creating an Inclusive Culture and Welcoming Families-** Districts and school buildings embrace diversity, empathetically listen, and learn, honor both the strengths and barriers of all groups and individuals, give space for the voices of everyone, and invest time and resources in the growth and development of all.
7. **Fostering Communication between Schools, Families, and Communities** -Good communication is intentional, relevant, dynamic, reciprocal, culturally responsive, interactive, and two-way. This allows families, students, and communities to develop a strong sense of mutual rapport, respect, and trust, and a strong connection to school.
8. **Sustaining Family Engagement Across Developmental Stages** -The nature of family engagement shifts as the child develops and grows. The methods and purpose of engagement strategies should be appropriate to the developmental stage of the child and family and flexible enough to be tailored to the specific needs of the relationship.



The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)

