



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

High-Impact Family Engagement: Promoting Equity for Student Success

Webinar Series – Session 1

March 23, 2018

Welcome!

Judy Carson

School-Family-Community Partnerships

Connecticut State Department of Education



Agenda for the Webinar

- ❑ What is a “family engagement?”
- ❑ How does family engagement promote student success?
Learn about new research and practice.
- ❑ Ideas to Get Started

Defining Family Engagement (draft)

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.

CREATING “PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS” FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Anne T. Henderson
National Association for Family,
School and Community Engagement
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Family Engagement: What Parents Say

- *Family engagement means that parents are seen as welcome partners in the education of children, and have a valued voice in the school.*
- *As a result, families are active participants, and communication is flowing between home and school.*
- *We believe that family engagement means mutual respect, honesty and trust.*

(Connecticut parents, August 2017)

What Does a Partnership School Look Like?



Fortress School (Below Basic)

- “Parents don’t care – that’s why the kids are failing!”



- “Parents don’t come, no matter what we do”
- A small group of “cooperative parents” helps out
- “We’re teachers, not social workers”
- “Curriculum and standards are too advanced for these parents”

Come-if-we-call School (Basic)

- Fall Open House tells parents what students will be learning



- Workshops are planned by staff
- Families can visit school on report card pickup day
- Parents call office for recorded messages about homework

Open-Door School (Proficient)

- Parent-teacher conferences twice a year



- “Action Team” for family engagement
- Curriculum nights 3-4 times a year
- Parents can raise issues at council meetings and see the principal
- Multicultural nights and other culture-bridgings

Partnership School (Advanced)

- “We do **WHATEVER IT TAKES**”



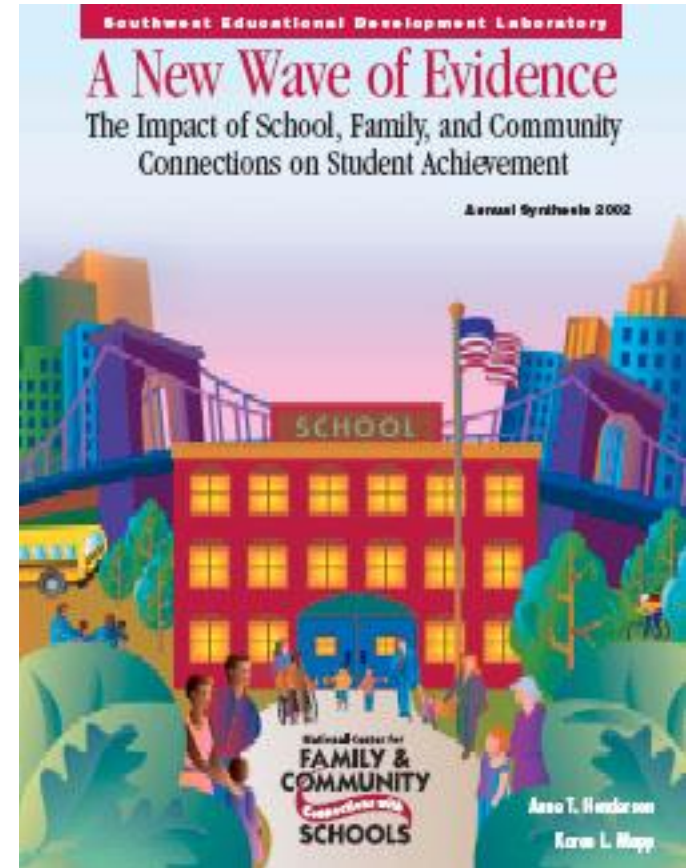
- All activities connect to student learning
- Clear, open process to resolve problems
- School council and teachers research issues together
- Families have voice in all major decisions
- Home visits to every family

A New Wave of Evidence:

Family Engagement Has a Powerful Impact on Student Achievement

By Anne T. Henderson
and Karen L. Mapp

www.sedl.org/connections



Overall Finding:

When families are engaged at home and at school:

- Children do better in school and
- Schools get better all the way through high school.



If Parents are Engaged, Students from All Backgrounds Tend To:

- Earn higher grades and test scores
- Enroll in higher-level programs
- Be promoted and earn credits
- Adapt well to school and attend regularly
- Have better social skills and behavior
- Graduate and go on to higher education

School Practices are KEY

The strongest, most consistent predictors of whether parents *become* involved at home and school:

Specific school programs and teacher practices that encourage and guide parents to become involved.

Dr. Joyce Epstein
Johns Hopkins University



Strong Ties to Families and Community

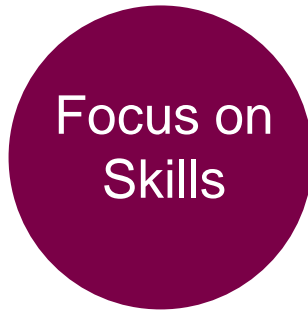
Long-term Chicago study: Schools with *strong family and community ties* were **4x** more likely to make significant math and reading gains.

- ❑ **Teacher ties to community:** Understand local issues, spend time in community, use local resources.
- ❑ **Teacher outreach to parents:** Invite parents to observe in class, try to understand parents' concerns, and embrace parents as partners
- ❑ **Parents respond:** Become involved in school activities and respond to teacher concerns about schoolwork.

Anthony S. Bryk et al, (2010) *Organizing Schools for Improvement: Lessons from Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press)

Achievement for All / 3As

- Program focus is raising achievement for UK students with special needs, ES-HS
- Linchpin of program: *Structured Conversations* between teachers and parents
- AFA students did 25% better than all UK students and 50% better than non-AFA special needs students.



Impact of Teacher Outreach Strategies

Students' reading and math scores improved 40-50% *faster* when teachers:

- Met with families face-to-face
- Sent materials on ways to help their child at home
- Telephoned routinely about progress

Keys to Powerful Partnerships

Building Relationships



Linking to Learning

**Addressing
Differences**

**Equalizing
Power**

Ideas for Getting Started

1. Welcoming Walk-Through – Action research to assess where you are now.
2. Redesigned Back-to-School Night
 - Meet with families in classrooms
 - Explain the key skills for the year
 - Create a collaboration plan
3. Revamped Title I compacts -- Using info from the back-to-school night
4. Relationship-Building Home Visits

Combine High-Impact Strategies



**Home Visits +
Link Compacts to
learning**

- ❑ Build relationships
- ❑ Share knowledge and goals for child
- ❑ Explain class data
- ❑ Focus on skills
- ❑ Develop a plan
- ❑ Share progress
- ❑ Evaluate

Improved student performance

Beyond the Bake Sale

The Essential Guide to Family- School Partnerships

Anne T. Henderson, Karen L.
Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson and
Don Davies

The New Press, 2007
www.thenewpress.org/bakesale



Resources

- ❑ How Welcoming Is Your School? Training & Assessment:
<http://www.crec.org/welcomingschools/>
- ❑ Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT):
<https://goo.gl/9YwTLi>
- ❑ APTT Video from Stanton Elementary School:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YNsWrFiYfY
- ❑ Revamp Your School-Parent Compact:
ctschoollparentcompact.org
- ❑ Parent Teacher Home Visit (PTHV) Project:
www.pthvp.org

NAFSCE: Join Us!

The National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement offers:

- A website filled with information about the field
- Opportunities to network
- Communities of practice
- Professional development
- Advocacy for better policy and more resources

To learn more, go to: www.nafsce.org



NAFSCE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR FAMILY, SCHOOL, AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Webinar Series

High-Impact Family Engagement: Promoting Equity for Student Success

Session 2 – April 20, 2018

Session 3 – May 25, 2018

Session 4 – June 8, 2018

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Thank you!

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