How Schools Improve by ENGAGING FAMILIES
How Schools Improve by Engaging Families
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Director of Educator Engagement
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Join the discussion

#FACEWebinar
What we’ll discuss

- How are districts collecting and using Family Engagement data to improve outcomes?
- What’s next for Family Engagement in your state or district?
- Questions & Answers
Karen Mapp
Professor, Faculty Director
Harvard Graduate School of Education
Michael Templeton
Principal
Ella Risk Elementary School

Amy Burns
Director of Transformation
Central Falls High School
Landon Mascareñaz
Executive Director
Strategy Development and Family Empowerment

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How are thought leaders approaching Family and Community Engagement?
If the research makes it so clear that Family Engagement matters - why don’t we have more of it?

The stakeholders (families, district/school leaders and staff) have not had the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions, in other words, the capacity to engage in effective partnerships.
# The Dual Capacity-Building Framework

## THE CHALLENGE

- Lack of opportunities for School/Program Staff to build the capacity for partnerships
- Lack of opportunities for Families to build the capacity for partnerships

## OPPORTUNITY CONDITIONS

**Process Conditions**
- Linked to learning
- Relational
- Development vs. service orientation
- Collaborative
- Interactive

**Organizational Conditions**
- Systemic: across the organization
- Integrated: embedded in all programs
- Sustained: with resources and infrastructure

## POLICY AND PROGRAM GOALS

To build and enhance the capacity of staff/families in the “4 C” areas:
- **Capabilities** (skills and knowledge)
- **Connections** (networks)
- **Cognition** (beliefs, values)
- **Confidence** (self-efficacy)

## FAMILY AND STAFF CAPACITY OUTCOMES

- School and Program Staff who can:
  - Honor and recognize families’ funds of knowledge
  - Connect family engagement to student learning
  - Create welcoming, inviting cultures

- Families who can negotiate multiple roles:
  - Supporters
  - Encouragers
  - Monitors
  - Advocates
  - Decision Makers
  - Collaborators

**Effective Family–School Partnerships Supporting Student Achievement & School Improvement**
Creating Opportunity Conditions

- Process Conditions
  - Linked to learning
  - Relational
  - Development vs. service orientation
  - Collaborative
  - Interactive

- Organizational Conditions
  - Systemic: across the organization
  - Integrated: embedded in all programs
  - Sustained: with resources and infrastructure
Getting Organized for Success

• Commissioner-led initiative

• Encourage schools and organizations to host parent survey nights in their buildings

• Regular encouragement:
  • Weekly field memos
  • Social media campaign
  • PR/News media features
Record Participation:

- **85,973 students** (80%)
- **16,850 parents** (20%)
- **10,496 educators** (77%)

Join the conversation!

SurveyWorks
Doing Surveys Well

- Choosing the right partner
- Consistent and routine communication and reminders
- Encouragement and acknowledgement
- Friendly competition to boost response rates
What are the preliminary participation results?

• Unprecedented engagement

• Districts and schools showing complete turnarounds in Family Engagement

• Accessible and transparent data
The City of Central Falls

- Rhode Island’s
  - Smallest city
  - Densest population
  - Highest poverty rate

- Educators are changing the narrative of the city
A Closer Look:  
**Ella Risk Elementary School**

- **Set the core value** - “Every parent has a valuable voice that needs to be heard.”

- **Prepare the team** - A school staff that is open to feedback AND goes out and gets it

- **Meet families where they are** - Every communication channel, every event

- **Close the loop** - Engage families in interpreting and acting on data
A Closer Look: Central Falls High School

• Adjust for your context
  • What works in elementary schools might not work in high schools

• Organic leadership
  • Home-School Liaison
  • Lead Parent Volunteer
  • Students!

• Structures
  • The “family room” during conferences
  • Monthly principal coffee hours
DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Discover a World of Opportunity™
About Denver Public Schools

- 92,000 students across 200 schools
- 67% FRPL, 37% ELL, 11% Special Education
- 65% graduation rate
- Progressive district with stable leadership
FACE in Denver Public Schools

- Led by current State Senator Michael Bennett, the FACE Dept. started in 2008

- Currently structured with 65 people spread across three sub-departments
  - School-based Services
  - Family Constituency Services
  - Family Empowerment
Our Focus on Family Empowerment

- District-wide parent climate survey - we wanted to improve our data to help increase parent partnerships

- While some data indicated success, we did not know if our work was actually creating change in parents
Collecting Data for Family Empowerment

- Focus on the people and their level of empowerment
- Collect self-assessment data to locate parents are on an empowerment spectrum
- Determine specific actions/programs for support and development
- Are our programs activators for home, school, district?
Survey of Academic Partnership

- Piloting innovative approach to assess parents’ ability to educate and empower themselves in pursuit of academic success at multiple system levels

- Partnering with Panorama to build survey, run logistics, and analyze trends in data

- Meeting families where they are in both capacity and availability
The Family Empowerment Index

- Survey has 27 questions, divided into four categories:
  - Home
  - School
  - District
  - Participation
- Self-rating on a frequency scale of Never to Always

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>I identify academic areas of improvement for my student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>I identify areas of improvement for my school based on its current performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>I identify areas of improvement for the performance of the district as a whole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analyzing the Data

Spring 2017 Survey of Academic Partnership (Round 5)
Denver Public Schools

Summary
Click on any topic to view more detailed results.

1. Home
92 % favorable

2. School
67 % favorable

3. District
47 % favorable
# Analyzing the Data

## 1. Home

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I partner with staff at my school to ensure the success of my student.</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 2. School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I attend school-based events to learn more about my school’s performance.</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 3. District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I access information on the performance of schools across the district.</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey Takeaways

• Academic Partnerships start at home

• Stepping Stones are essential

• Family Empowerment Index predicts involvement

• Not all programs impact equally

• School governance programs are powerful
What is next for FACE?
Explore Family Engagement with Dr. Mapp

Introduction to Family Engagement in Education
Learn about successful collaborations between families and educators and why they lead to improved outcomes for students and schools.

https://www.edx.org/course/introduction-family-engagement-education-harvardx-gse4x

Family Engagement in Education: Creating Effective Home and School Partnerships for Student Success

https://www.gse.harvard.edu/ppe/
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Free, open-source survey from Panorama Education:

www.panoramaed.com/family-school-relationships-survey
Questions & Answers

Join the discussion

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Thank You

Questions?
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