Every Child in Focus Leadership Series:
Engaging Hispanic Families in Schools, PTA and Community to Support Student Success
GoToWebinar
Tools to Help You Participate
Welcome

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You Will Learn:

- Use of the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships as a guide to connect to Hispanic families
- Overview of programs that effectively engage Hispanic families
- Engagement Strategies that empower families to become effective educational advocates
- Student and parent leadership programs
Students with Involved Families

No matter what their family income or background may be, students with involved parents/caregivers are more likely to:

• Earn higher grades and test scores
• Pass their classes
• Attend school regularly
• Have better social skills
• Graduate and go on to postsecondary education

National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Welcoming All Families
Standard 1

Communicating Effectively
Standard 2

Supporting Student Success
Standard 3

Sharing Power
Standard 5

Speaking Up for Every Child
Standard 4

Collaborating with Community
Standard 6

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Standard 1: Welcoming All Families

Goal 1: Create a Welcoming Climate
- Create a family-friendly atmosphere
- Develop personal relationships
- Offer different types of volunteer opportunities
- Always say “Yes” when a parent offers to help

Goal 2: Build a Respectful, Inclusive School Community
- Respect all families
- Remove economic or other obstacles to participation
- Ensure accessible programming
Standard 2: Communicating Effectively

Goal: Share information between school and families

- Use multiple communication paths
- Survey families to identify issues and concerns
- Have access to the principal
- Provide information on current issues
- Facilitate connections among families
Standard 3: Supporting Student Success

Goal 1: Share information about student progress
- Ensure family-teacher communication
- Link student work to academic standards
- Use standardized test results to increase achievement
- Share school progress

Goal 2: Support learning by engaging families
- Engage families in classroom learning
- Develop family ability to strengthen learning at home
- Promote after-school learning
Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child

Goal 1: Inform families about how the school system works
- Describe how the school and district operate
- Share rights and responsibilities under federal and state laws
- Ensure access to student support services
- Resolve problems and conflicts

Goal 2: Empower families to support overall student success in school
- Develop families’ capacity to be effective advocates
- Engage families in planning for the future
- Facilitate smooth transitions
- Encourage families to participate in civic advocacy for student achievement
Standard 5: Sharing Power

Goal 1: Strengthen the family’s voice in shared decision-making
- Ensure families have a voice in all decisions that affect children
- Address equity issues
- Develop parent leaders

Goal 2: Building families’ social and political connections
- Connect families to local officials
- Develop an effective PTA that represents all families
Goal: Connecting the school with community resources

- Serve as the link to community resources and services
- Organize support from community partners
- Turn the school into a hub of community life
- Partner with community groups to strengthen families and support student success
Migrant and Seasonal Head Start

• Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs... support the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5. In addition to education services, programs provide children and their families with health, nutrition, social, and other services. MSHS services are responsive to each child and family's ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage.

• MSHS...encourages the role of parents as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Parents are guided by Performance Standards; specific to parent engagement.
Valuing and Welcoming Families to PTA

- Demographics of children and families in your schools and your community

- Making your environment welcoming by honoring the demographics of children and families in your schools
  - Culture & Language
  - Pairing their culture and language with life in the school and community
Rethinking Outreach Practices

- Rethink the criteria for participation in PTA
  - Economic cost to participate
  - Outreach efforts reflecting the language and literacy levels of the families you are trying to reach;
  - Outreach efforts reflect the areas in the community where the families live

- Identifying challenges in serving these populations
  - Work schedules, Language, Transportation issues, Child care

- Stress the importance and value of MSHS, Hispanic & Latino families in PTA
  - Family’s importance on education & their concept of volunteering
  - Family strengths a contribution to public schools and community
Building on Existing Strengths

Head Start parents as leaders and decision makers:

• The director, the governing board, Parent Policy Council, parent center committees, and management teams determine the way that Head Start and Migrant & Seasonal Head Start programs engage parents, families, and the community.

• The Policy Council actively participates in the development of school readiness goals and helps to assess the program’s progress in achieving those goals. The Policy Council also promotes the critical role that parents play in supporting their children’s progress towards school readiness.
Community Partnerships

Head Start “must take an active role in community planning to encourage strong communication, cooperation, and the sharing of information among agencies and their community partners and to improve the delivery of community services to children and families” (PS1304.41.a. Community partnerships)

- Planning systems occur in a continuous cycle, and involve **key members** of the Head Start community.
  - Program Planning
  - Use of Data
  - Community Assessment
For further information

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MALDEF’s Parent School Partnership Program

Founded in 1968, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) is the nation’s leading Latino legal civil rights organization.

• The PSP program was established in 1989. It was developed as a method to foster and develop a generation of leaders.
Parent School Partnership Curriculum Outline

Navigating the System
1. Orientation
2. Parents’ Rights and Responsibilities
3. Parent Teacher Partnership
4. Structure and Function of the School Site
5. Structure and Function of the School District and the Board
6. The Road to the University

Leadership Training
1. The Politics of Education
2. Responsible Leadership and Teamwork
3. Developing an Action Plan
4. Facilitation of and Participation in Productive Meetings
5. Strengthening Communication Skills
6. Reflection as Leaders
MALDEF’s PSP Program Aligns with PTA’s National Standards

Legend:
- Direct training
- Training of trainers

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Building Parent Capacity

• MALDEF’s parent-engagement work (within the Latino community) focuses on efforts to build parent’s capacity to understand their rights and responsibilities in the public school system.

• Limited research has been conducted on what constitutes parental involvement in other cultures specifically in middle and high school parents.

• Limited attention is paid to how diverse parents, specifically Latinos, define parental involvement.
Building Trust and Fostering Commitment

Be attentive to the obstacles that may reduce, inhibit or deter parents from being involved

- Provide bilingual support to promote TRUST; oral and written communication needs to be available in both English and home language
- Keep in mind literacy and educational differences
- Provide flexible schedules for meetings
- Provide transportation and child care
- Secure translators (with equipment) as needed
Leadership opportunities (paired with leadership development and support) are key in engaging Latino communities.

Immigrant Latino families, like other parents, must feel valued, respected, and know that their concerns are being considered.

Including parents in the decision-making process is important in validating their effort and increasing trust and commitment.
Engaging Latino Families

Providing parents with facts and data on student academic success, the school’s performance, graduation rates, and student access to higher education provides a better understanding of why there is a need for parents to better advocate for a quality education.

Example:

In 2010, the high school drop out rate for Latino students was 15.1% higher than Whites, Blacks, Native Americans, and Asian/Pacific Islanders in the United States.

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The Hispanic Heritage Foundation

Since 1987, HHF focuses on inspiring, preparing, and connecting Latinos in the classroom, community and workforce to meet America’s priorities. HHF also promotes Latino culture, accomplishments and vision through public awareness seen by millions.

Importance of Parental Engagement

In 2015, HHF conducted a national survey on parental engagement and other topics titled *Taking the Pulse of the High School Student in America* with MyCollegeOptions.org:

- Hispanic students are the least likely to say that they use their parents as a resource in their education or to learn about paying for college.
- Hispanic students are the least likely to say that their parents are involved enough in their education, while Caucasian and African-American students are the most likely to say their parents are involved enough.
- Forty percent of first-generation, college-bound students report that they wish their parents were more involved in their education compared to 23% of students whose parents actually attended college.
- Students from lower income families are almost twice as likely to say they wish their parents were more involved in their education compared to students from higher income families.
- Hispanic students are the most likely to report they would like their parents to be more involved in their education.
Addressing the Gap

• HHF signed an MOU with the NPTA

• HHF partnered with NPTA to host the first-ever Hispanic Family Engagement Symposium which took place during 2015 NPTA Convention & Expo in Charlotte

• HHF added a parental engagement component to the LOFT (Latinos On Fast Track) STEM Symposia with the Army in 15 markets in 2015-16 to strengthen parents’ connection their children and educational resources
Addressing the Gap

• HHF is adding a Parent of the Year Award to the 18-year-old Youth Awards in 2016 to highlight role-model parents and the impact on child’s success

• HHF shoots and posts content from parents to provide online guidance, inspiration and role models for other parents in Spanish and English

• HHF to conduct more research on the issue of parental engagement
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Leadership Events & Discussion Guides
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Hispanic Family Engagement

• **Available now** – Learn about Clave Al Éxito with National PTA & Univision

• **Available now** - Understanding the Many Perspectives of Hispanic Families

• **Available now** – What is PTA and Why Should You Get Involved to Support the Children You Love?

Families Living in Poverty – Topics coming soon!

LGBT Families – Topics coming soon!
Questions?
Thank You

Mahalo

Kiitos

Tack

Grazie

Obrigado

Takk

Gracias

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