

How Well Does Your District Support Family and Community Engagement?

Family Engagement Policy

1. The district has a strong policy that sets standards for what partnerships in schools should include and lays out a process for making sure that schools meet the standards.
☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
2. Parent involvement is clearly defined and means more than parents' being their children's "first teachers."
☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
3. The policy commits the district to offer certain programs and opportunities for families, staff, and community members.
☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
4. Parents have the right to observe in classrooms, attend faculty meetings, and take part in professional development.
☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*

High – Level Leadership

5. The director of family and community engagement is an assistant or deputy superintendent and reports directly to the superintendent.
☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
6. The director's staff are full-time and can cover all schools in the district. They have the skills to offer professional development to schools on engaging families effectively.
☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
7. Principals are required to have credentials and experience in engaging diverse families.
☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
8. Schools with high levels of parent, family, and community involvement are recognized and rewarded.
☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*

Accountability

9. All schools are required to appoint an action team of staff and parents who represent the school's diversity to build and sustain parent involvement.
- ☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
10. Principals are evaluated, in part, on how well the school engages families and community members and organizations.
- ☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
11. An annual survey assesses families' opinions of the school and what supports they need to become more involved.
- ☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
12. The annual survey data are correlated with student outcome data (including test scores) to develop programs for families that are linked to student learning.
- ☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
13. The district uses a walk-through process to help schools assess how family-friendly they are.
- ☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*

Support and Resources

14. Professional development and technical assistance on all aspects of family and community engagement are available for administrators, teachers, and parents.
- ☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
15. Funding to plan and carry out family involvement activities is built into the district budget. Family involvement is not dependent of discretionary grants or other "soft money."
- ☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
16. The district has a well-developed and easy-to-use website so that schools and families can contact staff, obtain important information, and download useful materials.
- ☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
17. The district offers incentives, such as small action grants, to develop new programs and activities.
- ☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*
18. The district showcases best practice, such as at conferences where schools exhibit their programs and describe the results, and in publications and on the website. There are awards for schools and staff that have made the most progress.
- ☐ *Already doing this* ☐ *Could do this easily* ☐ *This will take time* ☐ *This will be hard*

Which areas are you doing well? Which ones will need more work?

How are parents and community members involved at the district level to promote effective family and community engagement?

What are your concerns?

Reflection: What steps could you take to develop district-wide initiative?

Right away:

Over the long term:
