A Proven Model:
Create Strong, Effective Family Engagement with Parenting Partners

Parenting Partners™
Engaged for Achievement

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The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family–School Partnerships

**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
A Proven Model:
Create Strong, Effective Family Engagement with PARENTING PARTNERS

Patty Bunker, Katie Harri, and Karen Williams
Family Leadership Inc. – Parenting Partners

Family Leadership - Parenting Partners

About Us

- National Non-Profit
- 22+ years reliability
- Proven, Evidence-based model
- Over 180,000 Parent Graduates

The Parenting Partners Process

- Comprehensive model: Systemic, Sustainable, and Turn-key
- Increases Academic Achievement
- Equips parents with strategies to empower their children succeed
- Builds positive, encouraging Family-School Partnerships
- Engages families from diverse backgrounds, ELL

Key Ingredients

- We’re a Trainer of Trainers model.
- Each School has its own presenting team.
- Parents attend 6 workshops each 90 minutes.

The Importance of the Family’s Role

- Academic
- Social
- Emotional Development

.......Everyone Agrees!
Common Refrain

- Desire: More Families
- Diverse Backgrounds & Cultures
- Engaged in Child’s Education
- Strong Partnerships – Home & Schools

Pair Share: Common “Obstacles” to Strong Family Engagement

What are Common Obstacles

- Parents Don’t feel Welcome/Heard/Valued
- The Same Few Parents Come to Everything – Can’t get enough parent leaders for PTSA, Title I meetings, School/District advisories, etc.
- We try everything we can to ‘get parents there’ (meals, incentives, flyers, texts, etc.) but parents ‘don’t come’.
- District can’t afford Parent Liaisons

Family Engagement: HOW

- Cultivate and Sustain
- Positive Relationships
- Partnerships for Shared Responsibility
- Build Key Parent Roles

Capacity Building is the Key!

Increasing Skills, Providing Opportunities, & Building Relationships = Strong Partnerships

- No longer “Parent Involvement”
- “Parent/Family Engagement” is more comprehensive
- “Capacity-Building” is the new goal and the new requirement nation-wide

Key Principles for Creating Effective Family-School Partnerships

- Value Parent Contributions/Strengths
- Develop Parents’ Skills & Capacity
- Research & Outcomes Based Best Practices
- Interactive, Practical and Relational
- Model Partnership for Achievement
- Build & Celebrate Parent Leadership
- Sustainable – Ongoing Support
Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

Key Principles of Parent Engagement
- Value Parent Contributions
- Building on parents strengths
- Respect and value families’ experience, knowledge, and potential contribution

Valuable Parenting Qualities

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Tell Me a Story

Find a partner and take turns interviewing each other:
- Tell about a time when you were parenting at your best
- What did you do?
- What worked well?
- Share your “Valuable Parenting Qualities”

Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

Key Principles of Parent Engagement
- Best Practice – Research & Outcomes Based
- Build on proven frameworks
  - Dual Capacity Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships
  - Harvard Family Research Project
  - Epstein’s 6 Types of Parent Involvement

The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships

Ineffective Family-School Partnerships

Providing Services vs. Building Capacity for Family-School Partnerships

Dr. Karen Mapp – Harvard Graduate School of Education
Characteristics of Effective Programs

► Systemic, Integrated, Sustainable
► Relational, Interactive, and Collaborative
► Development vs. Service

Effective Partnerships Outcomes

Staff Outcomes:
► Create Welcoming, Inviting cultures
► Honor and Value Families Contributions
► Connect Engagement to Student Learning

Family Outcomes:
Families who engage in multiple roles:
► Supporters
► Advocates
► Encouragers
► Decision-Makers
► Monitors
► Collaborators

Paradigm Shift

“If we want parents to be partners, we need to treat them like partners from the beginning.”
► Strength-based vs. Deficits
► Partners vs. Consumers
► Invite them as Leaders – it’s an “honor/privilege”

Traditional Model

► Parents as Consumers
► “One and Done”
► No Sustainability or Leadership Development

“Plant and Grow” Model

Parent Leadership Benefits More Parents and Children!

How do we build Parent Leaders?
Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

Key Principles of Parent Engagement
- Develop Parents’ Skill Capacity to perform the Key Parent Roles
- Increase Awareness / Share Research!
- Provide Practical Tools & Resources

GOALS & DREAMS

RISK FACTORS

US Department of Education
Harvard Family Research Project

Parent Roles In Student Achievement

Encouraging
- Building an Achievement Identity
  - “Can Do” Spirit
  - Positive Self Image

Communicating
- Talking Together
- Expressing High Expectations

Modeling
- Lifelong Learning
- Reading Daily
- Enthusiasm for Education
Creating Structure

• Family Routines
  • Boundaries for Time and Behavior

Partnering

• Connecting Home to School
  • Monitor School Work
  • Plan for Further Education

Collaborating

• Working Together for School Improvement
  • School and Community Networks

Leadership

• Advocating and Decision-Making
  • Parents as Leaders at Home, School, and Community

Research Demonstrating Parent Engagement

Research Links Family Roles in Education with Indicators of Student Achievement
Best Practices in Parent Engagement from Research

Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

Key Principles of Parent Engagement

Practical and Relational

Build the skill capacity of both staff and parents to partner in ways that support academic achievement

Paper Heart Skit

Critical Comment Strips

1. Never mind - I’ll do it myself! Why are you always so slow? (Impatience)

2. I know I said I would do it, but something came up that’s really important. I’m sure you don’t mind. (Not keeping your promises)

3. That’s stupid! I can’t believe you did that! (Overreacting)

The Power of Words

Words for Encouraging

Words for Affirming Character

Words for Listen Well

Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

How Do We Build Capacity?

- Listening
- Clear expectations
- Dealing with conflict
- Affirmation and encouragement

Parenting Skills are Leadership Skills!

The Argument Trap

What Are Some Reasons Why Kids & Teens Argue?
Creating Conflict Free Routines

Children
- Avoiding or delaying homework
- The “Clean Room Clash”
- Home dinner vs. fast food
- Time with video games and TV
- Brushing teeth or taking baths
- Chores and responsibilities
- The “Coming Home Zone”
- Not eating breakfast

Teens
- Conflicts and teens’ whereabouts
- Eating money
- Using the car
- Choice of friends
- Being on time
- Time and effort devoted to study
- Use of alcohol, smoking, and drugs
- Dinner with family

Ending Arguments & Setting Boundaries

Stand Strong
► Use few words
► Don’t engage
► Repeat like a broken record

Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

Key Principles of Parent Engagement
► Skillful parents create structure for achievement
► Parents are connected to teaching and learning goals

Build Capacity through increased knowledge & practical tools to support learning at home

What are the Outcomes?

Outcomes
- Increased Academic Achievement
  - Higher Reading Scores
  - Increased Daily Attendance
- Parents Engaged for Student Success
- Increased Parent Leadership Capacity

Survey Report Summary

95% of parents read more with their children!

Parents increase in the amount of time they spend reading with their children each week.
96% of parents regularly talk with their children about what they are learning in school!

99% of parents talk more often with their children about their future college/career goals!

90% of parents eat more than 2 meals as a family each week!

90% of parents have specific tools and strategies to help their child(ren) develop a positive view of their value and self-esteem.

100% of parents have more effective strategies for disciplining their child.

Multi-Year Sustainability

Dedicated Team Support Specialist for each school provides technical assistance and quality assurance

• 2 Day launch Training: Establishing Team Plans
• Ongoing Coaching, Support and Resources
• Outcomes Reporting
• District Parenting Partners Web Page
• Identifying Parent Champions

Team Support

We don’t train and run. Parenting Partners follows up with your teams to provide support and answer your questions.
Parents Become Facilitators

Multi-Year Content
- Academic Leadership and Growth

Sustainability

Multi-Year Sustainability

Core Six
- Workshop 1: Positive Parenting—Success Starts at Home
- Workshop 2: Creating Confident Kids
- Workshop 3: Communication that Works
- Workshop 4: Creating Structure for Achievement
- Workshop 5: Discipline—Practice for Success
- Workshop 6: What Children and Teens Need to Succeed

Parenting Partners PRO: Academic & Leadership Growth

Level 1: The Family Meals Challenge
- A: Research on Family Meals as a top strategy for school readiness and addiction prevention
- B: Benefits of Family Meals—It’s worth the effort
- C: What gets in the way? Managing technology around Family Meals
- D: Taking the Family Meals Challenge
- E: Fun tools for Family Meals: Grateology and games with Conversation Starters
- F: Strategies for bringing the “30 Million Word Gap” to the dinner table

The “30 Million Word Advantage”
Children receive an advantage with more talk time.

Some children experience more conversation—up to 30 million more words. It creates an academic boost: larger vocabularies lead to higher reading levels.

Family Mealtime Creates Conversation

Family mealtime is one great time to develop storytelling talents.
Model storytelling every day by sharing your experiences and your family stories.
Fun tools for Family Meals
A Parenting Partners Next Level Resource

Ice Breaker Placemat
Randomly select a question and start a conversation!

Conversation Starters
Spin the arrow and have fun answering the question!

Let’s give it a spin:
Try the spinner game in groups of 3 to 4 people.

Results from the Family Meals Challenge!
Families reaching the five meals a week level doubled!
Before: 33% at five meals.
After: 66% at five meals, and most of the others at 3 to 4.

Results from the Family Meals Challenge!
Number of families practicing quality mealtime conversations improved greatly!
• Before: 12% reported that everyone participated.
• After: 81% reported that everyone participated.
Learn how to:
• Become an effective presenter.
• Generate engagement and discussion.
• Identify facilitator strengths on your team.
• Gain confidence in your leadership abilities.
• Use innovative presenting tools

Level 1: Leading Powerful Workshops
ADVANCED PRESENTATION METHODS

Level 2: Top Study Skills
Top Study Skills Topics
1. Positive Family Communication
2. Motivation and Setting Goals
3. The Power of Organization
4. Managing Technology Use
5. Time Management
6. Managing Stress
7. Limiting Interruptions
8. Nutrition and Learning
9. Finding the Best Places for Learning
10. Break Up Your Study Time
11. Test Preparation – Part 1
12. Test Preparation – Part 2

Level 3: PRO STRENGTHS
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT TEAMS

Multi-Year Sustainability
Parents Become facilitators

Parents Take Leadership Roles
PTA
School Site Council
District Parent Advisories

Engaging Parents for Student Achievement
Key Principles of Parent Engagement
▶ Parents make great trainers
▶ They are credible
▶ Parent trainers provide sustainability
▶ They have language and cultural skills
▶ Dads reach other dads
**Multiplying Family Engagement**

- Building Sustainability
- Developing Parent Leaders
- More Engaged for Student Achievement

**The Parenting Partners Process**

- Increases academic achievement
- Equips parents with strategies to empower their children succeed
- Builds positive, encouraging Family-School Partnerships
- Engages families from diverse backgrounds, ELL
- Comprehensive model: Systemic, Sustainable, and Turn-Key

**Step 1**
Each school forms a team with up to 5 members

**Step 2**
Team attends the 2-day Facilitators Training

- Teams practice presenting the workshops
- Each team receives coaching at their table in their own language

**Step 3**
At the close of training teams have everything they need

- Comprehensive Team Resource Kit
- Competence, Confidence, Certification
- Complete team plan for strong attendance
- Ongoing coaching and team support

**Parenting Partners Team Resources**

- Facilitator Manuals in English and Spanish
- Parent Marketing & Organizing Books
- 40 Parent Workbooks
- Online Resources, Books, and Posters
- 30 Day Action Plan Posters
- PowerPoints and Videos
- Interactive Presentation Tools
- Evaluation Tools and Report
Step 4
Teams now lead the workshops at their school

Step 5
“Plant and Grow” Model

Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

Key Principles of Parent Engagement:

A Summary for Sustainability
- Be committed to building meaningful relationships with your families
- Avoid the “One and Done” mentality
- Value and build Parent Leadership
- Invest in Multi-year Strategies

Selecting Best Practice Programs: Checklist
- Builds Key Parent Roles
- Best Practice – Research & Outcomes Based
- Practical and Relational
- Develops Parents’ Skills & Capacity
- Partnership for Achievement
- Builds Parent Leadership
- Sustainable – Ongoing Support

Our Secret Sauce
Why Parenting Partners works

Selecting Best Practice Programs: Checklist

Stop by our booth for FREE samples!

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Summary and Description of Parent Engagement Resources

Linked to Learning: Parents contribute to their children’s academic achievement

- Empowers parents to contribute to their children’s academic success.
- Gives parents strong skills for increasing effective structure at home. Trains parents in skills that result in their children increasing their reading and study time and being better prepared for school.
- Gives parents skills for increasing their support and communication with their children, including teens.
- The parent training is led by teams that can align their training to the key academic goals of each school. i.e. Getting more students reading at grade level or meeting specific standards.

Relational integrity: Connecting parents to their schools and district

- Parents are valued as contributors and leaders, with a high level of respect as adult learners and leaders.
- Parents are trusted and equipped to be trainers.
- The workshops are credible culturally by being led by trainers who are rooted in the family’s communities.
- Workshops and other resources are interactive, and consistent with best practices in adult learning.

TOT: Interactive Training and Curriculum

- Quality curriculum has content that is comprehensive and user-friendly.
- Training is by immersion - teams practice “hands-on” with coaching during training.
- TOT training is “turnkey”. It is a comprehensive package of curriculum and presentation materials ready to implement immediately.
- The resource effectively trains volunteer parents and staff to start providing the workshops right after they are trained.
- TOT training has on-going support and coaching, and best-practice updates.
Sustainability

- Methodology that allows parents who receive training to become trainers themselves, which creates sustainability and promotes respect and excellence among parents.
- Methodology allows for sustainability financially. The program can continue during budget years that have minimal financial resources available to programs.

Experience and Research

- Research based with a research framework that demonstrates practical application to parents empowering children to learn and thrive.
- Experience with other school districts demonstrating wide acceptance as a best practice.

Builds Parent Leadership Capacity

- The resource creates pathways for parents into leadership at the school site and district.
- Parents are empowered with confidence in their parenting skills that gives them a platform for advocating for the success of their children and all children in the district and community.
- Resource has an Asset approach – the “glass half-full” approach that views parents as leaders and partners in their children’s learning.
- Increases parents’ capacity to implement the multiple roles of the US Department of Education’s Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships and Epstein’s 6 Types of Parent Involvement (NNPS – John Hopkins).

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