

# **Building Strong Family-School Partnerships: Engaging Families with a Dynamic, Proven Model**



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**2017 National Title I Conference – Long Beach, CA**


**February 23, 2017**

**Figure 2: The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family–School Partnerships**




# Building Strong Family-School Partnerships: Engaging Families with a Dynamic, Proven Model

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National Directors  
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## Influential Voices:



- ▶ Dr. Karen Mapp - Harvard Family Research
- ▶ Joyce Epstein: NNPS, Johns Hopkins (6 Types of Parent Involvement)
- ▶ U.S. Department of Education: Capacity-Building framework



## 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






## What is Your Vision for Effective Family-School Partnership





## Family Engagement: HOW

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


## Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

- ▶ **Key Principles of Parent Engagement**
  - ▶ Build on parents strengths
  - ▶ Respect and value families' experience, knowledge, and potential contribution



## Valuable Parenting Qualities

Caring	Good Listener	Consistent
Loving	Trustworthy	Follow Through
Patient	Responsible	Consistent
Kind	Dependable	Flexible
Fun	Structured	Playful
Firm	Considerate	Creative
Planner	Understanding	Loyal
	Organized	



## 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"**




## Selecting Best Practice Programs: A 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




## Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

- ▶ **Key Principles of Parent Engagement**
  - ▶ Build on proven frameworks & research
    - ▶ 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



Research Based


## Ineffective Family-School Partnerships:

Providing Services  
 vs.  
 Building Capacity for  
 Family-School  
 Partnerships

Research Based

## Characteristics of the Effective Program:

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



Research Based


## 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



Research Based

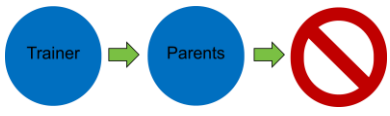
## Paradigm Shift

“If we want parents to be partners, we have to treat them like partners from the beginning.”

- ▶ Strength-based vs. Deficits
- ▶ Partners vs. Consumers

Paradigm Shift

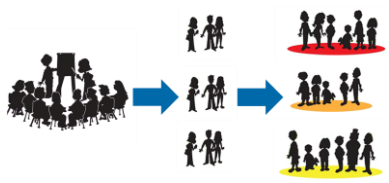
## Traditional Model



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

Paradigm Shift

## “Plant and Grow” Model



Parent Leadership Benefits  
 More Parents and Children!

Paradigm Shift

## Paradigm Shift

- ❑ What do you find helpful from the U.S. Department of Education's "Dual Capacity-Building Framework?"
- ❑ What stands out as distinct, or perhaps 'new' in thinking about Creating Dynamic Partnerships?

Paradigm Shift

## How do we build parent leaders?



## Key Parent Roles

**GOALS & DREAMS**  
**RISK FACTORS**

US Department of Education  
Harvard Family Research Project



## Parent Roles – In Student Achievement



Curriculum

## 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

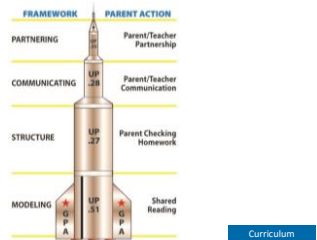


## Leadership

- Advocating & Decision-Making
- Parents as leaders at home, school, and community



## Research Demonstrating Parent Engagement



FRAMEWORK	PARENT ACTION
PARTNERING LIP .29	Parent/Teacher Partnership
COMMUNICATING LIP .28	Parent/Teacher Communication
STRUCTURE LIP .27	Parent Checking Homework
MODELING LIP .51	Shared Reading

Curriculum

### Research link Family in Education with Indicators of Student Achievement

Student Belief in the Value of Education

Achievement Test Scores

Lower Drop-out Rates

Confidence & Competence

Student Grades

Curriculum

### Best Parenting in Parent Engagement from Research

A  
B  
C  
D  
E  
F

40% More A's & B's with Family Meets Together

Curriculum

### Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

► **Key Principles of Parent Engagement**

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

Parenting Partners®  
Success Starts at Home

### Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

► **How Do We Build Capacity?**

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

**Parenting skills are Leadership Skills!**

Parenting Partners®  
Success Starts at Home

### 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.)

Curriculum

### The Power of Words

Words for Encouraging

Words for Affirming Character

Words for Listen Well

Curriculum



## The Argument Trap



What Are Some Reasons Why Kids & Teens Argue?

## Creating Conflict Free Routines

### Children

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



### Teens

- Curfews and teens' whereabouts
- Earning money/ Using the car.
- Choice of friends.
- Being to class 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



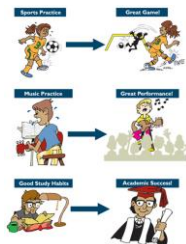
## Positive Discipline – Responsibility, Decision-Making, Security

### What are the Consequences?

- ▶ They are training tools that give children the mental and moral capacity to develop positive actions and habits.
- ▶ They are the weight room that builds the strength to act morally and to successfully get along with others.



## Discipline is Practice for Success



## Parents Ignore the Polls



## Be the Parent Now or Later




**"BE THE PARENT NOW OR LATER"**





## Engaging Parents for Student Achievement

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



## The Parenting Partners Process – Core Six Workshops

- ▶ 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

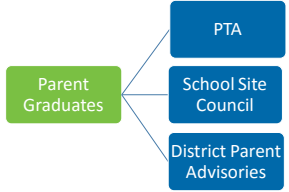



## Parenting Partners Multi-Year Content

Taking Parent Roles to the Next Level

<p style="text-align: center; color: white;"><b>Level 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: white;">Top Study Skills Family Literacy</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: white;"><b>Level 2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: white;">The Family Meals Challenge The Parent /Teacher Connection Building Blocks of Success</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: white;"><b>Level 3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: white;">Innovative Parent Leadership Leading Powerful Workshop</p>
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## Parents Take Leadership Roles



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    graph TD
      A[Parent Graduates] --> B[PTA]
      A --> C[School Site Council]
      A --> D[District Parent Advisories]
  
```

## Parent Champions



Our Parent Champions Initiative identifies and honors strong parent leaders.




Sustainability

## 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



## Launching Parent Leadership Teams

All curriculum and training in Spanish and English


Successful at all grade levels.

- Pre K
- Elementary
- Middle
- High school

Proven approach.

- 20+ years of experience
- Reliable
- Research-based

Practical User-friendly Turn-key




## Launching Parent Leadership Teams

We're a Trainer of Trainers model.

Each School has its own presenting team.

Parents attend 8 workshops each 90 minutes.



## Step One

Each School forms a team with up to 6 members.

*Team includes parents & key staff members.*





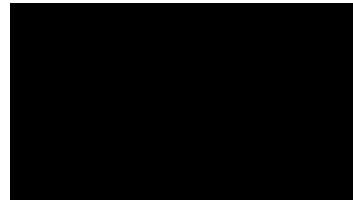
## Step Two

The team attends the 2-day Facilitators Training together.

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



## Training in Action!



## Step Three

At the end of the training teams have everything they need.

1. Competence, Confidence, Certification
2. Complete team plan for strong attendance
3. Coach for ongoing support
4. Comprehensive Team Resource Kit



## Complete Team Plan for Strong Attendance

**Team Start-up Plan**

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team members: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What members of your team are handling these workshops?

2. How will you work and share the workload?

3. How will you monitor and evaluate your progress?

4. How will you measure success?

5. How will you share your progress with the community?



## Team Resources



## Parenting Partners Team Resources Include:



- ▶ Facilitator Manuals in English and Spanish
- ▶ Parent Marketing & Organizing Books
- ▶ 40 Parent workbooks
- ▶ 30 Day Action Plan Posters
- ▶ Online Resources, Books and Posters
- ▶ PowerPoints and Videos
- ▶ Interactive Presentation Tools
- ▶ Evaluation Tools and Report



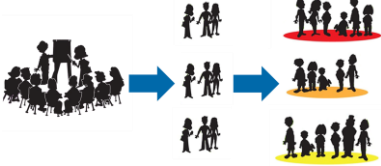
### Step Four

Teams now lead the 8-week workshop series at their school.

*Team can offer the workshops multiple times throughout the year.*

### Step Five "Plant and Grow" Model



**Parent Leadership Benefits  
More Parents and Children!**

Paradigm Shift

### Multi-Year Sustainability

Team Support

Multi-Year Content  
• Academic Leadership and Growth

Parents Become facilitators

Sustainability

### Team Support Package

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


Sustainability

### Outcomes

Increased Academic Achievement.  
• Higher Reading Scores  
• Increased Daily Attendance

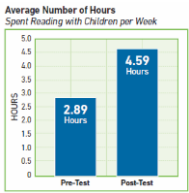
Parents Engaged for Student Success.

Increased Parent Leadership Capacity.



### Survey Report Summary

Average Number of Hours Spent Reading with Children per Week



Test Type	Average Number of Hours
Pre-Test	2.89 Hours
Post-Test	4.59 Hours

Parents increase in the amount of time they spend reading with their children each week.

Pre-Test: Average number of hours spent reading with children per week... **2.89**

Post-Test: Average number of hours spent reading with children per week... **4.59**

### Survey Report Summary

**Question #9:** Notice that the percentage of children arriving on time to school significantly increased after parents completed the Parenting Partners workshop.

**9. My children(ren) are always on time to class.**

Response	Pre-Test (%)	Post-Test (%)
Always On Time	18.22%	61.83%
Sometimes	1.18%	1.84%
Rarely	48.29%	16.83%
Not On Time	13.76%	16.83%
Never On Time	19.53%	1.84%

Sustainability

### Survey Report Summary

**Question #12:** Notice that the percentage of parents having regular conversations with their child(ren) about what they are learning in school increased.

**12. My children(ren) and I regularly have conversations about what they are learning in school.**

Response	Pre-Test (%)	Post-Test (%)
Regularly	22.22%	41.11%
Sometimes	48.78%	26.67%
Rarely	19.22%	11.11%
Not at All	10.78%	19.22%
Never	1.00%	1.83%

Sustainability

### Parent Graduates Become Trainers

Sustainability

### Selecting Best Practice Programs: A Checklist

- ✓ Builds Key Parent Roles
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- ✓ Practical and Relational
- ✓ Develops Parents’ Skills & Capacity
- ✓ Partnership for Achievement
- ✓ Builds Parent Leadership
- ✓ Sustainable – Ongoing support

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## Checklist for Selecting / Evaluating Parent Engagement Resources

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### **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).



**Family Leadership/Parenting Partners**

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