

ParentCamp: Innovative Strategy to Engage Families



National ESEAI Conference, Kansas City, MO
(February 2, 2019)

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WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

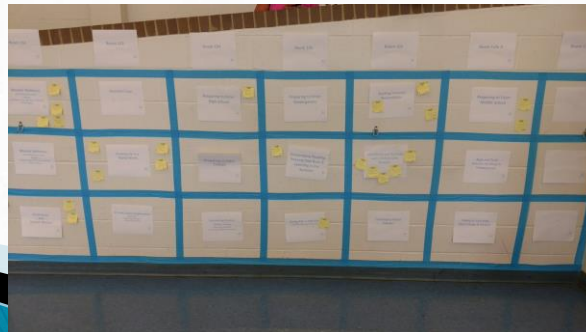
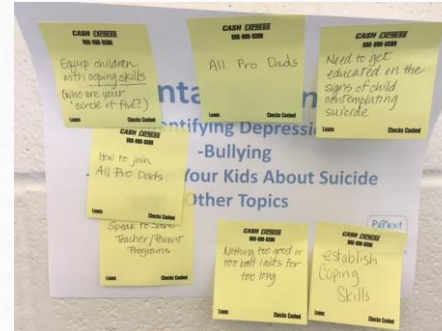
Participants will learn:

- **What is ParentCamp?**
- **Why ParentCamp?**
- **Federal, State, Local Collaboration**
- **How to Plan a ParentCamp?**



WHAT IS A PARENTCAMP?

- www.parentcamp.org
 - **Un-conference** – parent driven and parent led
 - The four core beliefs (*Beyond the Bakesale*)
 - Discussion leaders
 - Similar to edcamps



HISTORY OF PARENTCAMP?

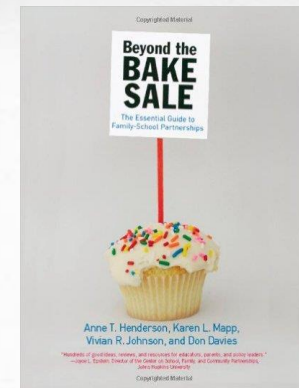
- First ParentCamp held at Knapp Elementary in Lansdale, Pennsylvania following an edcamp.
- There have been six ParentCamps held at the US Department of Education since 2015, we are an official partner with the US Department of Education with a Memo of Understanding
 - April & October 2016 focused on World Cultures and Literacy Outcomes
 - October 2017 focused on Middle & High School
 - April 2018 focused on Summer Learning Slide
- ParentCamp was formalized as a non-profit in Kentucky in 2016
- ParentCamps have been held in many states across the U.S. with a number of them on the schedule for this spring.
- In Northern Kentucky, a series of GrandParentCamps are being held across the region due to so many grandparents raising grandchildren



WHAT HAPPENS IN A PARENTCAMP SESSION?

- Space is designed to put all stakeholders in a circle for face-to-face discussion.
- Discussion centers around what is best for the children.
- Relies on the expertise and perspective of the ENTIRE room.
- There is no main speaker, but rather a discussion leader or facilitator to start the conversation and keep it on track.





The ParentCamp experience, by design, is a hybrid “un-conference” opportunity for parents, teachers, administrators and community to come together and model the four core beliefs highlighted in *Beyond the Bakesale*.

- **Core Belief 1: All Parents Have Dreams for Their Children and Want the Best for Them**
- **Core Belief 2: All Parents Have the Capacity to Support Their Children's Learning**
- **Core Belief 3: Parents and School Staff Should Be Equal Partners**
- **Core Belief 4: The Responsibility for Building Partnerships Between School and Home Rests Primarily with School Staff, Especially School Leaders**



DUAL CAPACITY-BUILDING FRAMEWORK FOR FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

The **Dual Capacity-Building Framework** can be used by states, districts and schools to guide their efforts in creating and sustaining family-school-community partnerships to improve students outcomes.

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



The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family–School Partnerships

THE CHALLENGE

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

Ineffective Family–School 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

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

Effective Family–School Partnerships Supporting Student Achievement & School Improvement

Families who can negotiate multiple roles

- Supporters
- Encouragers
- Monitors
- Advocates
- Decision Makers
- Collaborators

The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family–School Partnerships





Why ParentCamp?



Section 1116: District Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

a) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY POLICY-

(1) IN GENERAL- A local educational agency may receive funds under this part only if such agency **conducts outreach to all parents and family members** and implements programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents **and family members** in programs assisted under this part consistent with this section. Such programs, activities, and procedures **shall** be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Kentucky Department of Education Kentucky Teacher Magazine reporter participated in ParentCampNKY:



<https://www.kentuckyteacher.org/features/2018/03/parents-and-educators-working-together-for-student-success/>

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) SEC. 1116 (D)

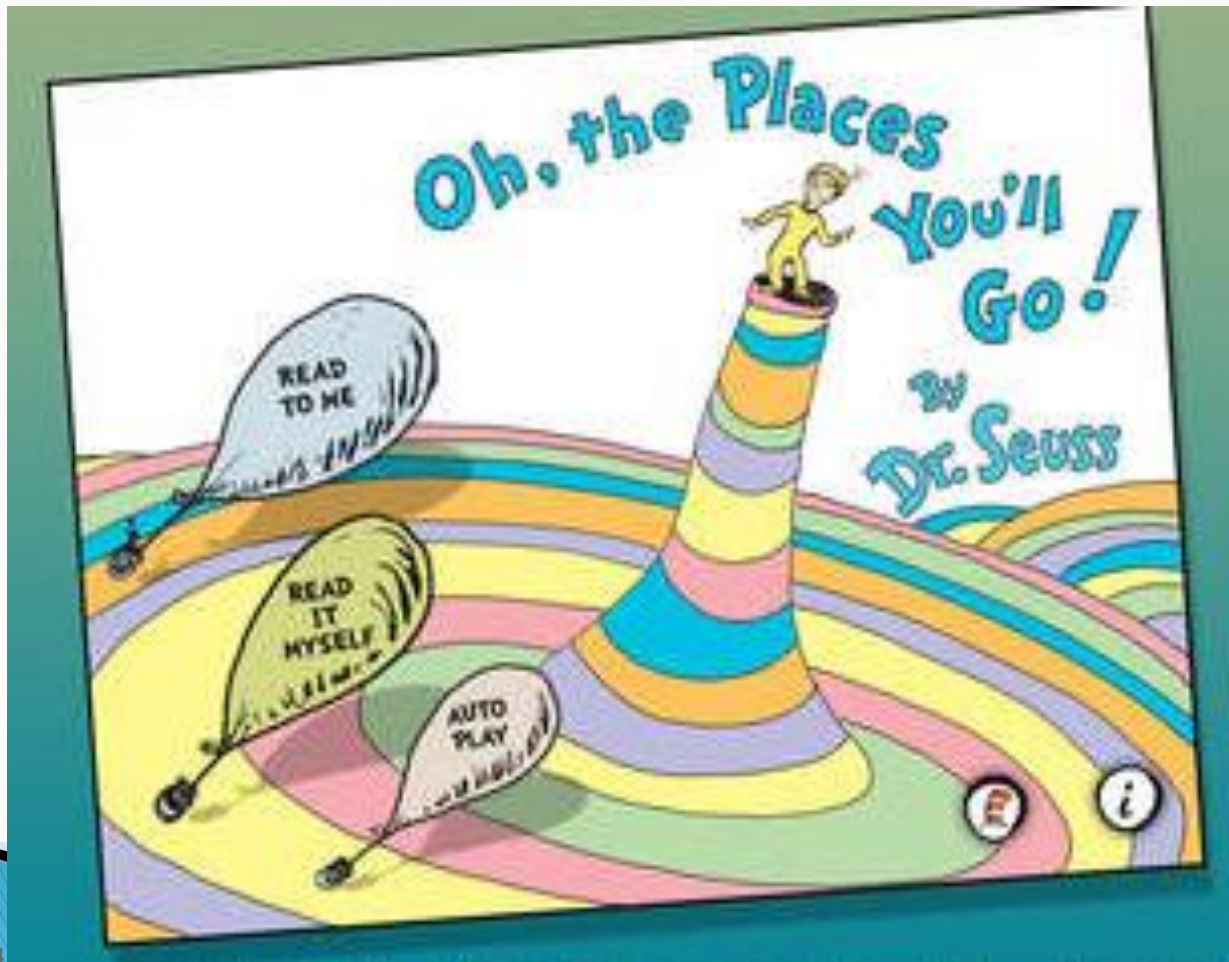
(D) USE OF FUNDS

- (ii) Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.



Parent
Coop

Grand
Parent
Coop



ParentCamp for Title I Schools

SCHOOL LEVEL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Improving Literacy Outcomes

Use of Title I Parent & Family Engagement Funds

HOW TO HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED

School – Parent Compact

District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

STEM Night

Title I Annual Orientation



PARENTCAMP: TITLE I ANNUAL ORIENTATION PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

What is
Title I?

Title I
Parent
Involvement
Funds

Parent and
Family
Engagement
Plan

School –
Parent
Compact

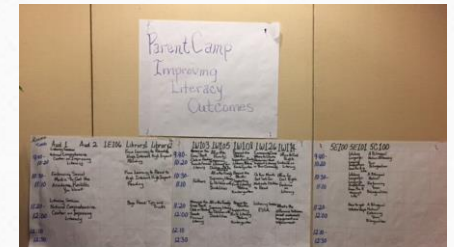
Parent
Topic

WHY PARENTCAMP?

PARENTCAMP: IMPROVING LITERACY OUTCOMES

U. S. Department of Education

October 14, 2016



BENEFITS TO SCHOOLS

- A PROCESS that is adaptable, sustainable, authentic
- RELATIONSHIPS between teachers, staff and parents blossom.
- Trust between parents, educators/staff and community
- Broadened PERSPECTIVES lead to EMPATHY, APPRECIATION
- Collaborative leadership and learning. No more silos.
- Time and place for CONVERSATIONS about things beyond grades, behavior and events that benefit the one thing that brings us all together -- 'our kids'
- Positivity and enthusiasm for this experience afterwards feels good and kids 'see it.'



RECENT PARENTCAMPS 2018-19

- 5 ParentCamps Across KC Project Laura Gilchrist
 - Smithville Schools Maple Elementary (Oct 2018)
 - Basehor-Linwood USD 458 Linwood Elementary (Nov 2018)
 - Olathe USD 233 Westview Elementary (Nov 2018)
 - KC Public Schools—Crossroads (Dec 2018) (gr 7-12)
 - KC Public Schools – Paseo (Jan 2019) (gr 7-12)
- Kansas
 - Stockton USD 271 May 5, 2018
 - McPherson USD 418 Feb 2019
 - Canton-Galva USD 419 March 2019



RECENT PARENTCAMPS

PARENTCAMP MAPLE ELEMENTARY

SMITHVILLE SCHOOLS, 10/25/18 MO



@parentcamp

#MapleParentCamp

@lauragilchrist4

PARENTCAMP PASEO (SECONDARY) KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 1/10/19



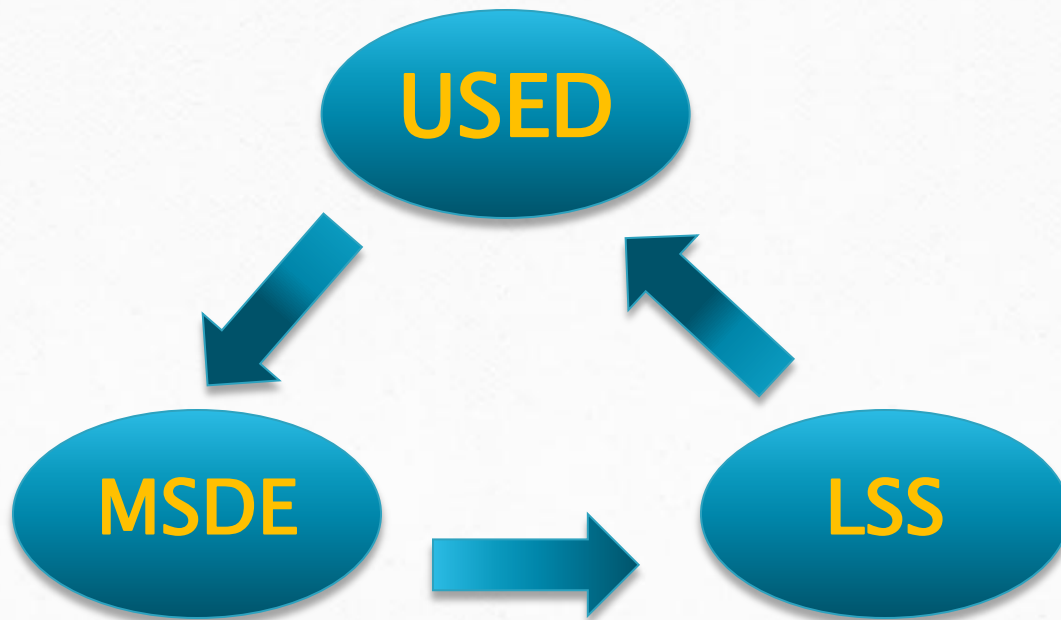
PARENTCAMP WESTVIEW ELEMENTARY

OLATHE USD 233 KANSAS 11/29/18



FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL COLLABORATION

- US Department of Education (USED)
- Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
- Local School Districts (DC, MD, KY, KS, WI, MN, NJ, CT, VA)



PARENTCAMP STANDARDS

- ParentCamp is always FREE and open to those within the community.
- Anyone can speak and be actively involved
- Costs for refreshments are offset by sponsors and donations.
- There is student participation which includes opportunities to lead student voice sessions, serving as school tour guides and/or providing childcare among other activities.
- Non-commercial/ no vendors
- Reliant on the “law of two feet”
- Discussion
- Facilitators guide the discussion and watch the time



HOW TO START A PARENTCAMP

- **Contact ParentCamp to register and for support**
- **Conversations with administration, parents and community members**
- **Survey parents for topics**
- **Arrange facilitators**
- **Market, market, market**
- **The Big Day – Keep it simple**
- **Collect feedback during day**
- **Send follow-up survey**



How ParentCamp?

ParentCamp International

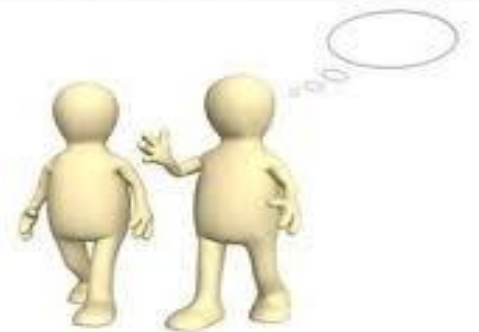
U.S. Department of Education

April 18, 2016



TIPS FOR ADDRESSING DIVERSITY

- Recognize, learn and affirm all of the cultures in the school
- Connect family cultures to what students are learning
- Work with cultural connectors from the community to connect families to school
- Recognize and support different forms of parent involvement
- Support learning at home
- **Address the language barrier** (written and oral communication)
- Be culturally sensitive
- 'camp' doesn't have the same meaning for everyone





ParentCampNKY (Northern Kentucky)

CHALLENGES

- Language access
- Bureaucracy in agencies
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Logistics – ex. Of what it took to get EL families register and follow up with details
- Buy-in : we don't know how good something is if we have never experienced it



LESSONS LEARNED



- **Keep it simple**
- **Ask parents – for topics/ for their needs/ strategies**
- **Some structures are needed for PC (sign up topics vs. topics assigned).**
- **Language access is a must.**
- **Collaboration and coordination with different offices yield great buy-in.**
- **Cultural connectors are “must haves” to engage immigrant parents.**
- **Don’t make assumptions about depth of understanding roles of facilitators/monitors.**
- **Know your intended outcomes.**



#PARENTCAMP

Go to <http://www.parentcamp.org/> for more information.

- Twitter (Follow @ParentCamp and use hashtag #parentcamp)
- Facebook: @ParentCamp
- Sign-up for our newsletter on our website

<https://www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement?src=rn>

- ParentCamp ToolKit
- ParentCamp Meeting Checklist
- How to Plan and Conduct a ParentCamp



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THANK YOU



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