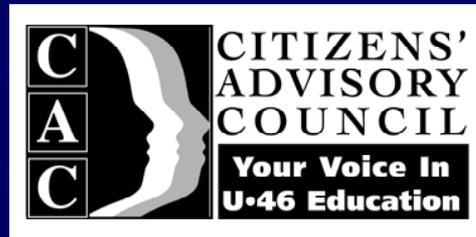


What is Engagement?

"There is an evolving understanding that effective parental involvement means more than just getting parents to the school. Rather, the school utilizes parents as **partners** in teaching and learning, recognizes parents as legitimate **participants** in school governance, fosters **community cohesion** and **supports** the development of parenting skills."

"Parental Involvement Under the New Title I & Title III," NWREL



Family & Community Engagement Committee

Spring 2011

COMMITTEE MISSION

To help the district and schools develop and nurture strong, genuine partnerships between families, communities, schools and leaders with the goal of improving student success.

To assist district schools with implementing family and community engagement plans that meet the unique needs of schools' learning communities and address the U-46 Six Components of Engagement.

COMMITTEE INITIATIVES 2010-2011

- ▶ Work with administration on the development of Family & Community Engagement strategies.
- ▶ Develop a roadmap to help schools develop and implement their family engagement plans.
- ▶ Develop family-friendly definitions of the Six Components of Engagement and identify key goals in each component area.
- ▶ Identify schools willing to let us document their process or let us help them develop their engagement plans, which will later serve as a resource for other schools.
- ▶ Continue to build a resource bank of engagement ideas from other school districts, national experts on engagement.

Summary of Work

▶ Destination 2015 Survey

- Assisted Administration with development of additional survey questions related to engagement and U-46 Six Components.
- Committee will continue to review results with the district annually.

▶ U-46 Six Components of Engagement

- Defined the key areas in which schools need to engage families and the community and what schools should be doing in each of the areas.
- Modeled on National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships.
- Distributed to school principals for use next school year.

Summary of Work

▶ Engagement Roadmap

- Developed a unified model of implementation -- or "roadmap" -- on how to develop and implement an engagement plan according to the new district standards.
- Provides a step-by-step guide on how to get started, including:
 - ▶ Establishing a team, mission statement and goals
 - ▶ Assessing current engagement climate and needs
 - ▶ Developing a plan and getting feedback on the plan
 - ▶ Implementation
 - ▶ Assessment (under development)
- Several of the committee members' schools have agreed to partner with the committee in their efforts to develop and implement plans.

Six Components of Engagement

▶ Welcoming Families to Schools

Create a welcoming school environment for all families so they develop a sense of belonging and feel valued and appreciated, leading to active participation in children's education.

▶ Communicating Effectively

Develop effective, meaningful two-way communication between families and school staff in order to share information about what students are learning.

▶ Supporting Student Learning

Collaborate with families to strengthen their knowledge and skills so they can support student learning & development at home & at school.

Six Components of Engagement

▶ Increasing Opportunities & Advocating for All Students

Educate families on how the school system works and empower them to become advocates for all children, to ensure equal access to learning opportunities that contribute to student success.

▶ Sharing Decision-making with Stakeholders

Engage families as equal partners and share the responsibility of influencing decisions on policy and programs that will affect all children.

▶ Collaborating with the Community

Work with local businesses, community organizations, agencies and institutions of higher learning to connect students, families and staff to expanded learning opportunities and resources.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the district continue its collaborative work with this committee on Engagement.

Possible Work for Next Year

- ▶ Implementation Accountability and Assessment
- ▶ Customer Service and Parent Resources/Advocate
- ▶ Expanding resources for all components, but in particular:
 - Increasing Opportunities & Advocating for All Students
 - Sharing Decision-making with Stakeholders