THINKING OUTSIDE THE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT BOX

EQUIPPING HEAD START CENTERS WITH RESOURCES TO SUSTAIN IMPROVEMENT GOALS FOR CREATING A FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN
ABOUT US

• Founded by former educators in 2006
• Over 60 Years of Education Experience
• Minority & Woman Owned Business
• Creators of National Family Engagement Summit conference for educators

Keynote Speaker 2016
Dr. Karen Mapp
Senior Lecturer of Education,
Harvard School of Education

https://www.nfesummit.com
Let’s make learning comfortable
WELCOME ACTIVITY

Starburst Partners Tidbits

1. Select one Starburst candy
2. Find a partner with the same color. Introduce yourself and share a Spring Break Tidbit
3. Form a group of 4 matching colors. Introduce each other and share a Family Tidbit
4. Form a group of 4 with NO matching colors. After introductions, share End-of-School-Year Tidbit
GOALS FOR SESSION

• 1. Discovering Where We Are
• 2. Understanding and Adapting to Parents’ Needs
• 3. Data Driven Family Engagement Goals
• 4. Monitoring and Evaluating Progress
• 5. Strategic Planning that Involves Family Engagement Goals.
WHAT ARE YOUR KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING SUCCESSFUL PLANS FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN YOUR CENTER?

Share with a partner

Share in small group and decide on 2 questions to present to the group
think outside the box
NEW AREA OF ACCOUNTABILITY

• We can no longer afford to plan activities for parents based on what we have done in the past.

• By understanding and appreciating the valuable role of data, we can design strategic family engagement plans and outreach goals aligned to the interests and needs of children and parents.
WHAT PARENTS DON'T LIKE

- Schools with little commitment to involve parents
- School staff who did not welcome, respect, or listen to them
- Limited communication in their native language
- Ineffective parent groups
- Lack of information about how to help their children
- Feeling less than equal on school site councils
Core Belief 1
• All Parents have dreams for children and want the best for them.

Core Belief 2
• All parents have the capacity to support their children’s learning.

Core Belief 3
• The responsibility for building partnerships between home & school rests primarily with school leaders.
STEP 1: DISCOVERING WHERE WE ARE

• 1. What are the needs of your families?
• 2. What are the greatest needs of your children?
• 3. Do you have a plan of action to make the gains to meet the standards?
LINKED TO LEARNING
ALL PROGRAMS AT YOUR CENTER SHOULD HELP FAMILIES:

#1 • Get a clear idea of what their children are learning and doing in class

#2 • Promote high standards for student work

#3 • Gain skills to help their children at home

#4 • Understand what good teaching looks like

#5 • Discuss how to improve student progress
WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED WITH FAMILY ENGAGEMENT?

Share in your group and make a list of common barriers.

Select the ONE barrier that keeping your school from having families engaged in student learning.
STEP 2: UNDERSTANDING & ADAPTING TO PARENTS’ NEEDS
EVERYONE WANTS EXCELLENT AND SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

- How will we reach these goals?

Excellent Schools

Child

Healthy Communities

Strong Families
QUICK TIPS FOR CENTERS:

- Help families understand what is happening in the classroom
- Put student work at front and center
- Communicate regularly with families about learning
- Put learning at the center of parent–teacher conferences and include children
- Collaborate with community organizations
## PARENT ACTION PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I have a concern...</th>
<th>I would like my child to...</th>
<th>I will take these steps to help my child...</th>
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FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

• Family Engagement is linked to a strong program-family relationship

• Both programs and families contribute resources and work together on behalf of children’s well being

• Family engagement will increase, which ultimately benefits the development of children

• High levels of engagement often results from strong programs: 2-way communication, mutual respect, and attention to family needs
STEP 3: DATA DRIVEN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT GOALS

- School Improvement Goal
- Family Engagement Alignment Goal
- Evaluation/ Measure of Success
USING DATA EFFECTIVELY

• Data is a road map that will lead to…

• Target specific instructional areas of students’ greatest needs.

• Plan structured activities focused on essential skill attainment.
STEP 4: MONITORING & EVALUATING PROGRESS

• School Improvement Goal
• Family Engagement Alignment Goal
• Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
• Next Steps
PULLING THE IDEAS ALL TOGETHER

Creating your Action Plan for Family School and Community Partnerships
ACTION PLANS

Linking Data and Resources
start
stop
what will you...
continue
change
?
KOOLAID ANALYSIS

- **Keep**
- **What aspects of the current family engagement partnership are working well and should continue in the future?**

- **What is unique/good/significant that you would want to continue or unchanged?**
KOOL AID ANALYSIS

- Add
  - What would you like to see added to the existing program or partnership?

- What are some gaps in capabilities that could be met?

- Should there be more financial support?
  - What addition might improve morale, commitment, leadership?
KOOLAID ANALYSIS

- Improve

- What aspects of the partnership need to be improved?

- Are there emerging needs?

- Is there new information or research that should be applied to improve this partnership?
KOOLAIID ANALYSIS

• Drop
• Are there aspects of the current partnership that are no longer effective or appropriate and should be discontinued?
• Has there been a significant decrease in demand for something?

• Is there a better way that could replace the existing process?
• Is some aspect of the family engagement programs ineffective but still being continued anyway?
THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX
ASK YOURSELF:

• Is the way that I measure family engagement aligned to my goals?
• What are my results really telling me?
• How do I know if the results are impacting student learning?
• Are the outcomes of the family engagement goal what I really want to know?
WHAT’S NEXT? GOAL SETTING

SHEET OF PAPER

• 1. Write down a GOAL for your next step
• 2. Set a DATE for accomplishing your GOAL
• 3. Write your name and contact information on the paper
• FOLD THE PAPER INTO A PAPER AIRPLANE
• FORM 2 LINES FACING EACH OTHER
• ON THE SIGNAL, FLY YOUR PLANE
• CONNECT WITH THE PLANE’S OWNER
THANK YOU! WE APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DO.

- Contact us for additional staff training needs or for follow-up staff development

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