The Georgia Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) Network

Parent Engagement Monthly Webinar: Teacher and Administrator Professional Development Modules

Thursday, April 26, 2012
Georgia Department of Education

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Overview

Teacher and Administrator Professional Development Modules–

The Basics of Parent Engagement

AND

Diversity and Inclusion: Promoting Cultural Competency

Georgia Department of Education

The Basics of Parent Engagement

Training Module 1

For Teachers and Administrators

Parent Engagement Program

Objectives

- **DEFINE** “parent”
- **DEFINE** parent engagement
- **IDENTIFY** five key practices to help parents become more engaged
- **DEFINE** the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships
- **IDENTIFY** basic strategies for effective parent engagement

PARENT:

- Biological parent
- **Any caregiver** who assumes the responsibility for nurturing and caring for a child's entire well-being consisting of educational, emotional, spiritual, and physical health.

Examples:

•Any relative (aunt, uncle) who is the primary caregiver

•Grandparent raising a grandchild

•Adoptive parent

•Foster parent

•Any non-relative caregiver

What is Parent Engagement?

Parent engagement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, schools, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure student achievement and success.

The Benefits

PARENTS WIN!

SCHOOLS WIN!

STUDENTS WIN!

COMMUNITIES WIN!

The Benefits

Students, schools and communities benefit from active participation by families in the process of educating children.

The benefits for students when parents are actively involved in school include:

- Higher grades and test scores
- Better attendance and more homework completed
- Fewer placements in special education
- More positive attitudes and behaviors
- Higher graduation rates
- Greater enrollment in post-secondary education

Clark, R., 1993; Griffith, J., 1996; Dauber, S.L. & Epstein J.L., 1993

Importance of Parent Engagement

Research related to family, community, and school connections among low-income and minority populations identifies several broad findings:

- Most families have high aspirations for their children and want them to be successful
- Families from racial, ethnic, and cultural minorities are actively involved in their children's schooling

Henderson, A. T., Mapp, K. L., Averett, A., National Center for Family & Community Connections with Schools (Southwest Educational Development Laboratory), & Institute of Education Sciences (U.S.). (2002). *A new wave of evidence: The impact of school, family, and community connections on student achievement*. Austin, Tex: National Center for Family & Community Connections with Schools.

Five Keys to Help Parents Become More Engaged

1. Set reasonable expectations
2. Identify specific ways parents can "be involved"
3. Practice good communication strategies
4. Make parents feel "welcome"
5. Acknowledge and promote parent leadership

Key 1
Set Reasonable Expectations

Key 2
Identify SPECIFIC Ways Parents Can "Be Involved"

Key 3
Good Communication

Key 4
Welcome Parents

Key 5
Acknowledge & Promote Parent

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

The National PTA Standards

Standard I: Welcoming all families into the school community - Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class

Standard II: Communicating effectively - Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning

Standard III: Supporting student success - Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

continued

The National PTA Standards

Standard IV: Speaking up for every child- Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success

Standard V: Sharing power - Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs

Standard VI: Collaborating with community - Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation

Practice
Makes
Perfect!

Georgia Department of Education

"Diversity & Inclusion Promoting Cultural Competency"

Training Module 2

For Teachers and Administrators

Parent Engagement Program

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DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"
www.gadoe.org

Why is Diversity Inclusion Important?

- Reaching diverse parents presents interesting challenges for all of us
- All cultures practice traditions that support and value their children and prepare them for living in society
- To successfully engage parents, it's important to become aware and respectful of those values, beliefs, customs and parenting styles

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Why is Diversity Inclusion Important?

- It's imperative that we employ specific behaviors, attitudes and policies that recognize and respect the uniqueness of individuals and groups whose culture is different from mainstream America

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What is Cultural Competence?

- **Knowledge, skills, and attitudes that enable an individual or organization to respond effectively to the needs of others to work within their values, preferences and life conditions**
- **Cultural Competence is a "service delivery" approach that applies to everyone, especially those serving children and families**

Cultural Competence Continuum

Ignorance | Awareness | Sensitivity | Understanding | Competence

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True of False?

- **Everyone in society has a culture and is part of several subcultures.**
- **Every family has its unique culture.**

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The Five Keys to Developing Cultural Competency:

1. As an individual
2. Within your home
3. At your school
4. With families
5. In the community

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Individually

It starts with you! Be OPEN to diversity and value differences.

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Within your Home

(or classroom)

Be aware of what you say EVEN within your home.

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At Your School

DEVELOP A PLAN

Commit to Diversity

- Link to school goals
- Make valuing diversity permanent in how a school functions (not a program)
- Commitment to action

Examine Training Issues

- Do you need a diversity steering committee?

Determine Accountability

- Support a diverse workforce
- Ensure that <u>everyone</u> feels valued

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With Your Families

- **Build a relationship with parents**
  - **Welcome parents who attend activities; thank them for coming**
  - **Seek support for parents who do not speak English**
  - **Meet parents in their home, community & school**
  - **Invite parents to tour the school**
  - **Follow up with phone calls**
  - **Ask about their children!**

In the Community

It takes a VILLAGE…

Every citizen has gifts. A strong community knows it needs everyone to give their gifts.

- John McKnight

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Displaying Cultural Competence

Let's Put it into Practice!

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References

- Georgia Afterschool Investment Council
- http://www.tolerance.org/hiddenbias
- http://www.beliefnet.com/section/quiz/index.asp?sectionID=500&surveyID=216
- http://www.athealth.com/Practitioner/particles/culturalcompetence.html
- Aarti Sahgal, Diversity Consultant, Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

Monthly Webinar Series Continues...

Don't Miss!

Thursday, May 10, 2012
9:30 am – 11:00 am

The Georgia PIC Network – *Wrapping Up and Looking Ahead for 2012 – 2013*

Open for Questions

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