Whose Responsibility is Family Engagement Anyway?

2015 IDEAS

Epworth by the Sea, St Simon Island

Debbie Currere
SPDG, Parent Support Specialist
Learning Targets

- I will be able to integrate new activities with the families of the students in your classroom

- I will be able to discuss ideas with colleagues to improve family engagement and continued school improvement

- I will be able to access family engagement resources
A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS
30 years of national achievement research shows a direct correlation between families engaged/involved in their child’s education to higher achievement.

2010 Presidents and Fellows of Harvard College
Published by Harvard Family Research Project
One of the most comprehensive research synthesis on Family Engagement was completed in 2002 by Ann Henderson and Karen Mapp. The researchers focused on the relationship between student achievement and family-community involvement.
Findings from Mapp and Henderson:

WHEN FAMILIES ARE ENGAGED:

Students achieve more, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parents' education level.

These students also exhibit more consistently higher grades, test scores, better attendance, completed homework; and positive attitudes and behavior.
To ensure long lasting gains, Ann Henderson and Karen Mapp say family engagement must be SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE & COMPREHENSIVE.
So What is the Difference???

Involved vs Engaged
Engagement vs Volunteering?

**Volunteering** Refers to Those Who Show Up During the School Day or Extracurricular Activities. *They Know the Unwritten Rules.*

Being **Engaged** is Supporting School Goals and Children's Learning Anyway, Anytime!!
There’s a difference between interest and commitment. When you are interested in doing something, you do it only when it is convenient. When you are committed to something you accept no excuses.

Ken Blanchard (author of the One Minute Manager)
Building Adult Capabilities to Improve Child Outcomes: A Theory of Change

A THEORY OF CHANGE

Build Adult Capabilities

Improve Child Outcomes

narrated by
Jack P. Shonkoff, MD
Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

• http://hfrp.org/hfrp-news/news-announcements/announcing-a-new-format-for-fine
This is too BIG for one person......
State Personnel Development Grant

Is a five year grant awarded to the GaDOE, Division of Special Education Services and Supports from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

www.gaspdg.org
GraduateFIRST is a nationally recognized initiative that utilizes a data-driven intervention framework to successfully address barriers to graduation for students with disabilities.

www.gaspdg.org
Hard Facts at start up in ‘07

• 86% of inmates in Georgia prisons did not have a high school diploma

• 2,000 Georgia students dropped out before the 8th grade that year and 7,000 dropped out of the 9th grade!

• 72% of the students leaving school were economically disadvantaged

• 23% students had a disability

* GraduateFIRST Reports 2009
GraduateFIRST ABCs

• Focus on Attendance, Behavior, and Course Performance
• Helping students develop a sense of belonging, develop caring relationships, and self-determination
• All of these dimensions are underpinned by strong family and community engagement
GraduateFIRST & Student Engagement

The GraduateFIRST model is based upon the NDPC-SD framework and the multi-dimensional construct of student engagement. Fostering student engagement relies not only on the ABCs, but also a focus on the dimensions of affective, cognitive, and family/community engagement.
GraduateFIRST ABCs

- **Belonging**
- **Attendance**
- **Behavior**
- **Relationships**

**Course Performance**

**Self-Determination**

**Family and Community Engagement**
World Café Protocol

• The process begins with the first of four 5-minute rounds of conversation.

• At the end of each 5 minutes, each member of the group moves clockwise to the next table.

• The "table host" charts the responses and remains for the next round and welcomes the next group.

• After the small groups have rotated between all 4 tables, the “table host” summarizes with the rest of the large group the ideas that have been compiled from all rotations.

http://www.theworldcafe.com/method.html
World Café Activity

For the following factors, chart strategies/interventions that can have a positive impact on the focus areas of engagement with families

• Groups 1 : Attendance
• Groups 2 : Behavior
• Groups 3 : Course Performance
• Groups 4 : Welcoming
Attendance and Sense of Belonging

- Attendance
- Developing caring relationships with adults
- Sense of school connectedness
- School bonding
- Mentoring
Attendance

• Infinite Campus – text alerts to parents notifying them of absences

• Communication with parents with a supportive tone, (Sorry your child had to be out of school. How can I help?)

• Sending a “Thank You” card to parents for improved attendance.

• Involve community – Is there a resource in the community to assist with driving student to school or assisting with any other barrier.

• Involve student in a club that encourages attendance
Behavior and Relationships

- Attendance
- Classroom and extracurricular participation
- Social Skills
Behavior

• Parent and Student celebrations every 4 ½ weeks for improved behavior
• Positive Office Referral with call to parent
• Suspension Alternatives - *Project HIP *Choices -
• Maintaining communication with parent – meeting to determine multiple/best formats. (As well as urgency level)
Course Performance and Self-Determination

- Students’ investment in the learning
- Setting learning goals
- Self-efficacy
- Self-Determination
- Motivation
- Belief: “I Can”
Course Performance

- Family Engagement Camp – summer meeting to prepare for upcoming school year, ie: summer reading groups
- Phone call to parents’ of targeted students twice a month to discuss progress
- Encourage parent /student communication
- “Meeting My Goals” Night
- Referral to SST/ RTI – Student lead progress meetings
Welcoming

- Providing a Chick-fil-a customer service approach
- A little extra effort – Thank you notes, Birthday cards, personal contacts
- Elimination of “No” signs and replaced with positive
- Transitional Meet and Greets
- Career Day /Community Day – Invite parents
- Neighborhood Outreach
How passion in your work and life can turn the ordinary into the extraordinary
The Fred Principles

• Everyone makes a difference
• Success is built on relationships
• You must continually create value for others, and it doesn’t have to cost a penny
• You can recreate yourself regularly
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Thank You!

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On the Road: Photographer proves strangers are friends you haven't met yet

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SELDTUaHRxQ