Standard 1: Welcoming All Families

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.

Focus is on developing personal relationships, family-friendly atmosphere, providing families opportunities for volunteering, respecting all families, removing economic obstacles to participation and ensuring accessible programming.

Questions to discuss:

1) What does this standard mean and why is it important to overcoming the barriers you face in parent engagement?

2) When you walk into your school (or into schools within your district) do you feel the school(s) is/are inviting and a place where all parents and families would feel like they belong?

3) Do the school's policies (or schools within your district) and programs reflect, respect, and value the diversity of the families in your school community?

4) **Thinking about your school and/or district improvement goals, what are some innovative strategies and activities you could use this year to welcome all families?**

Standard 2: Communicating Effectively

Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way *meaningful communication* about student learning.

Focus is on using multiple communication paths, surveying families to identify issues and concerns, having access to the principal, providing information on current issues, and facilitating connections among families.

Questions to discuss:

1) What does this standard mean and why is it important to overcoming the barriers you face in parent engagement?

2) What does regular, two – way meaningful communication mean to you? To your school or in your district?

3) Parents appreciate being kept in the loop – what does that look like in your school or in your district?

4) **Thinking about your school and/or district improvement goals, what are some innovative strategies and activities you could use this year to ensure your school or district is communicating effectively with families?**

Standard 3: 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 learning at home, and promoting after-school learning.

Focus is on ensuring parent-teacher communication about student progress, linking student work to academic standards, using standardized test results to increase achievement, sharing school progress, engaging families in classroom learning, developing family ability to strengthen learning at home, and promoting after-school learning.

Questions to discuss:

1) What does this standard mean and why is it important to overcoming the barriers you face in parent engagement?

2) Do families know and understand how well their children are succeeding in school and how well the entire school and district is progressing?

3) Are families active participants in their children's learning at home and at school?

4) **Thinking about your school and/or district improvement goals, what are some innovative strategies and activities you could use this year to ensure your school or district is working with families to support student success?**

Standard 4: 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 successes.

Focus is on understanding how the school and district operate, understanding rights and responsibilities under federal and state laws, learn available resources, resolve problems and conflicts, develop families' capacity to be effective advocates, help plan for the future and smoothing transitions, engage in civic advocacy for student achievement.

Questions to discuss:

1) What does this standard mean and why is it important to overcoming the barriers you face in parent engagement?

2) How can parents be empowered to advocate for students in their school or their district?

3) What is it that you find parents don't know about the school system, policies, assessments, data, school improvement, etc?

4) **Thinking about your school and/or district improvement goals, what are some innovative strategies and activities you could use this year to ensure your school or district is working with families to help them speak up for every child?**

Standard 5: 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.

Focus is having a voice in all decisions that affect children, addressing equity issues, developing parent leadership, connecting families to local officials, developing an effective parent involvement organization that represents all families.

Questions to discuss:

1) What does this standard mean and why is it important to overcoming the barriers you face in parent engagement?

2) What does sharing power look like?

3) Do families feel that they are full partners in your school or district? What impact does it have?

4) **Thinking about your school and/or district improvement goals, what are some innovative strategies and activities you could use this year to ensure your school or district is sharing power with families?**

Standard 6: Collaborating with the Community

Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Focus is on linking community resources, organizing support from community partners, turning the school into a hub of community life, and partnering with community groups to strengthen families and support student success.

Questions to discuss:

1) What does this standard mean and why is it important to overcoming the barriers you face in parent engagement?

2) Do schools and families connect with community partners/resources on behalf of education? What does this look like?

3) Do community business partners have a vested interest in what happens at the school?

4) **Thinking about your school and/or district improvement goals, what are some innovative strategies and activities you could use this year to ensure your school or district is collaborating with the community to increase student achievement and success?**