Building a Systemic Approach to Engaging Families

Coalition of Community Schools Conference

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Boston Public Schools

BPS Framework for Family & Student Engagement

“Every school will welcome every family and every student, actively engaging them as partners in student learning and school improvement”
BPS Framework for Family & Student Engagement

CORE BELIEFS

The Boston Public Schools is committed to the authentic engagement of families/parents and students that reflects the following core values:

• Every parent* has dreams for their children and want the best for them
• Every parent* has the capacity to support their children’s learning
• Parents and school staff should be equal partners in the education of children
• The primary responsibility for building partnerships between home and school rests primarily with school leaders and staff

* regardless to race, class, culture, socioeconomic status, language limitations, sexual orientation or disability

BPS Framework for Family & Student Engagement

CORE BELIEFS

• Every student* wants to excel and achieve – it is the role of the adults to listen, engage, support and encourage them in ways that impact their achievement
• When students are at the center of the decision-making process they are more engaged and take “ownership” of their education; enhancing school climate, improving student/adult relationships and increasing overall student achievement

* regardless to race, class, culture, socioeconomic status, language limitations, sexual orientation or disability
Defining the Work

Capacity Building
of Schools
of Families
of Students
of the District

Defining the Work

• If our goal is to impact student outcomes, who is primarily responsible and where do we need to focus the work?

Schools & Classrooms
Organizing the Work

Establishing Standards

- Provide a guide for establishing authentic family and student engagement in schools
- Provide a guide for the district for aligning professional development and support
- Provide measures for accountability
- Provides clear engagement opportunities for families, students and the community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>As Required By</th>
<th>As Promoted by</th>
<th>Benefit to School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Home School Compact</td>
<td>This document outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will partner to help students achieve high standards</td>
<td>Title I, Section 100 (a)</td>
<td>Developed and implemented correctly, the home-school compact serves as a vehicle for building accountability between home and school. Discussions using the compact can be held in part of parent-teacher conferences.</td>
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<td>2. School Parent Council</td>
<td>The School Parent Council is the formally recognized parent organization in every school. Every parent of a student in a given school is automatically a member of the SPC. This SPC elects a member to the school site council and serves as a representative to the Citywide Parent Council and the new parent advisory council</td>
<td>Superintendent's Office Standard</td>
<td>The purpose of SPC is to develop a plan for the community, to engage students and families in the development and planning of policies, to raise funds, and to solicit the public's support.</td>
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<td>3. School Site Council</td>
<td>The school site council is the decision-making body at the school level. It members include parents, staff, school staff, and students at the high school level. They agree to policies, programs and school operating and are responsible for all major decisions impacting student learning and school climate</td>
<td>Superintendent's Office Standard</td>
<td>The submission of a clear, coherent strategy to engage parents in ways that are linked to learning with measurable outcomes.</td>
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<td>4. Family Engagement Component of WISP</td>
<td>The whole-child improvement plan is the school's strategic plan for continuous improvement of instruction and student achievement. The plan must include a family engagement strategy that is directly linked to their stated instructional strategy</td>
<td>Title I, Section 118 (a) Standard 2</td>
<td>Developed and implemented correctly, the whole-child improvement plan is a vehicle for building strong relationships between home and school. Discussions using the compact can be held in part of parent-teacher conferences.</td>
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<td>5. Family Engagement Policy &amp; Plan</td>
<td>The Family Engagement Plan focuses on how the school will build relationships with families that support student learning and school improvement. It is based on data from the district-wide climate surveys and school-based analysis of family engagement and should include strategies for engaging families at both the school-wide level and the classroom level.</td>
<td>Title I, Section 118 (b) Standard 3</td>
<td>Developed and implemented correctly, the whole-child improvement plan is a vehicle for building strong relationships between home and school. Discussions using the compact can be held in part of parent-teacher conferences.</td>
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Bosnian Public Schools - Office of Family and Student Engagement, revised 1/14/13
Facilitating the Work

*High Impact Strategies that link Engagement to Student Learning*

1. The strategy focuses on a specific group of students (such as all 1stgrade students or students struggling with a specific math concept)

2. It is organized around a specific learning task (such as learning 100 high frequency words)

3. It has a home learning activity that engages parents to help students with the learning task (such as flash cards or a game)

4. There is two-way communication between parent and teacher regarding student progress with the learning task and celebrating success

Facilitating the Work: The Tools of Engagement

- Tool kit includes:
  - Description of the strategy
  - Connection to the research
  - Alignment to Academic targets
  - Implementation plan (structured for WSIP)
  - Electronic copies of all materials needed
  - List of resources for implementation

High Impact Strategies for linking Family Engagement to Learning
Parents Are Powerful!

Preparing Parents to become Powerful Partners for Student Learning and School Improvement
Our Ultimate Goal

The Transformation of Family & Student Engagement in BPS

...from program to practice
...from “what we do” to “who we are”