# Best Practices for Family Engagement and Community-School Partnerships

**Tuesday, April 25th, 2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern Time**

# Technical Tips

1. To view the **chat box**, press the “Chat” icon that looks like a word bubble at the bottom of your screen on the black bar.

2. To **listen to the audio**, make sure your computer or headphone speakers are turned ON and the volume is adjusted to your preference.

3. To participate in the conversation**,** feel free to type your questions or comments in the **chat** box **or “Q&A”** portal.

4. To **exit or change to full screen, speaker, or gallery view,** click the top right button or “View Options” drop down menu.

This **webinar is being recorded** and will be posted on https://www.communityschools.org/link/join-a-network/research-practice-network/

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# Land Recognition

https://usdac.us/nativeland #HonorNativeLand Guide

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# **Poll Question:** Which of the following role best describes your current role?

- ❑ I'm a practitioner
- ❑ I'm a researcher
- ❑ I'm an administrator or a community school coordinator
- ❑ I’m a community organizer
- ❑ I’m a community school partner
- ❑ I'm a policymaker
- ❑ I’m a graduate student
- ❑ Other

# IEL CCS RPN Research Agenda

[CCS RPN Website]

# RPN Research Agenda Topics

**#2 Elevating Student, Family, and Educator Voice in Research**

**#5 Collaborative Leadership and Relational Trust**

**#6 Defining and Supporting Staff, Family, Administrator, and Partner Roles**

# IEL CCS RPN Co-Chairs

**Jessica Knapp**
CCS RPN Practitioner Co-Chair;

Vice President at Communities in Schools of Pennsylvania

**Dr. Naorah Rimkunas**
CCS RPN Researcher Co-Chair;
Assistant Professor of Community Schools at Binghamton University

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# Best Practices for Family Engagement and Community-School Partnerships

**Tuesday, April 25th, 2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern Time**

# Speakers & Panelists

- **Joline Collins**, Northeast Regional Deputy Director, Institute for Educational Leadership
- **D'Lisa Crain**, Family-School Partnerships Administrator, Washoe County School District
- **Jerrica DeLaney,** Community Schools Zone Leader, Say Yes Buffalo
- **Helen Westmoreland,** Director of Family Engagement, National PTA

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every child. one voice.®

*NEW AND IMPROVED:*

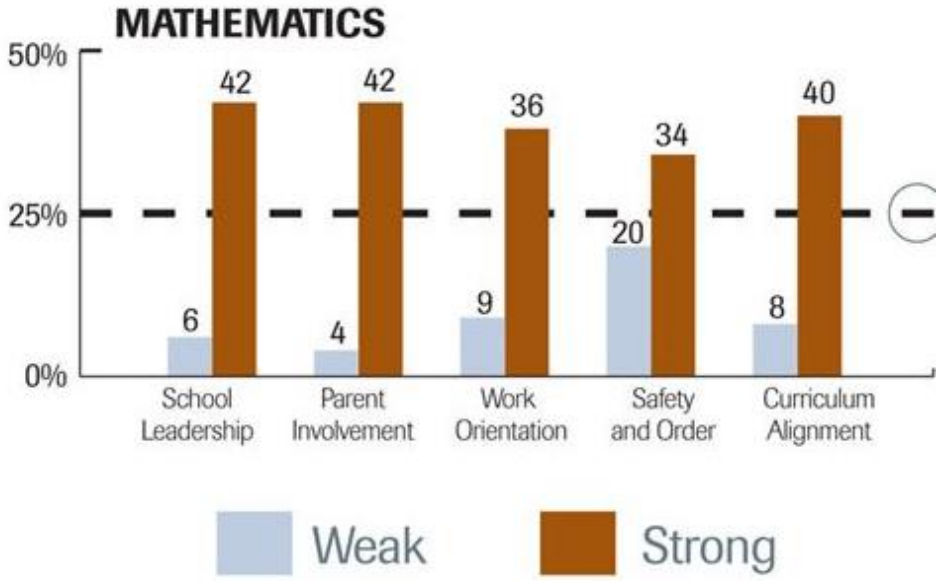
# NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

APRIL, 2023

# National PTA Mission

PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

# Family Engagement Matters




- Just as important as a high quality principal and a rigorous curriculum
- Struggling schools are more likely to “beat the odds” when they excel at family engagement.

# National Parent Survey Findings

**Conducted by Edge Research**

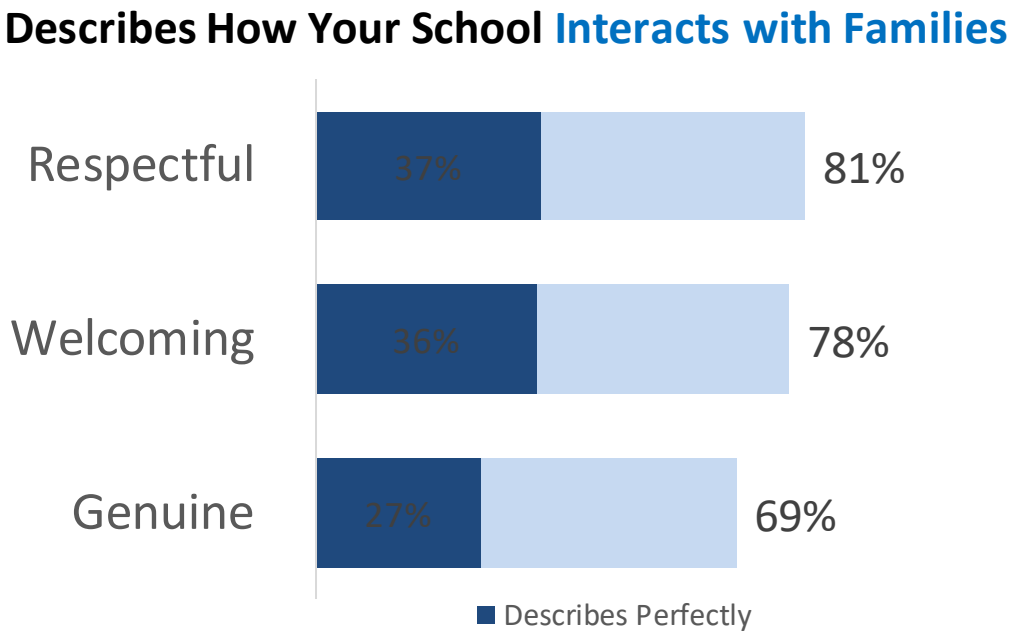
- 1,588 caregivers
- Representative demographics
- Sept-Oct, 2022
- English & Spanish

# Top Takeaways

1. As schools reopen, families share **positive ratings** of their school environment and communications.
2. However, there is **room for improvement**.
3. One area where schools can improve is **communicating effectively** to support student success.
4. Strengthening how schools **collaborate** with families is key so that they can speak up for their child and every child.

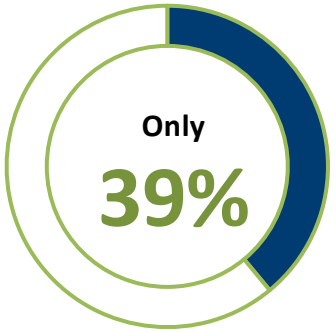
# ➢ As schools show signs of reopening, families share positive ratings of their school environment and communications.

**81%** of families say **schools allow parents/families inside the building**



# ➢ However, there is room for improvement.

**Less than 3 in 10 families see schools doing an "excellent" job, and even less so in middle and high school**




Of families who **speak another language** at home say the **school provides interpretation & translation**

Of families who **have a disability** say the **school provides accommodations**

# ➢ One area where schools can improve is communicating effectively to support student success.

**4 out of 10 parents agree…**

- The teachers at my child's school **could do a better job giving parents/families honest feedback** about their children.
- My child's school **relies too much on technology like apps, texting and mass emails** to communicate with parents and families

**77%** of families say it would be extremely or very **helpful if schools provided families with multiple measures** on how their child is doing academically

# ➢ There are simple fixes and big bets to improve effective communication for student success.

## Parent Teacher Conferences

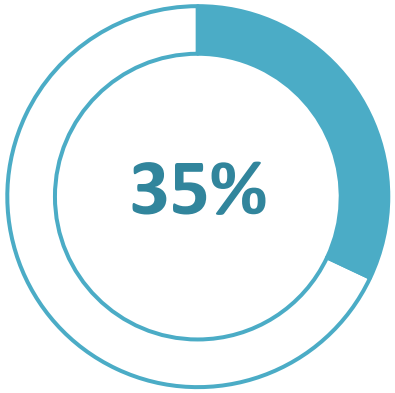
Only **55%** **rate conferences** as excellent or very good

**21%** of families report that **teachers/staff receive training on how to communicate with families,** but…

**70%** would find this **extremely/very helpful**

# ➢ Strengthening how schools collaborate with families is key so they can speak up for their child and every child.

**Less than 50%** of parents are very confident they **know who to ask or how to find information** they are looking for.



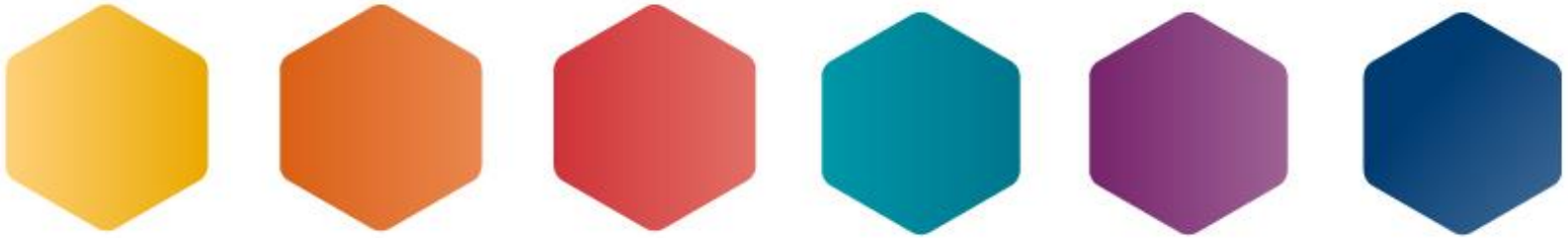

Of families find it **difficult to share their thoughts** with administrators.

## Top priorities for more info:

- How your child's school spends its **budget**
- How add'l **funding for COVID needs** was being used at your child's school
- How your child was doing in their **social and emotional wellbeing**

WELCOME ALL FAMILIES
STANDARD 1
COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY
STANDARD 2
COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITY
STANDARD 6
National PTA
National Standards for FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS
SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS
STANDARD 3
SHARE POWER
STANDARD 5
SPEAK UP FOR EVERY CHILD
STANDARD 4

# Leveraging
# PTA's National Standards



# Best Practices: School Leadership

- Communicate a positive vision for family engagement.
- Provide expectations, time, and training for educators to engage families.
- Utilize your PTA or parent organization to strengthen relationships, communication, and advocacy for all students.

# Best Practices: Influencing Your District

- Create or revise your family engagement policy to ensure it is enhancing family-school partnerships in ways that are aligned with research and best practices.

- Create a district level position (or department) responsible for family-school partnerships

- Make it clear who is responsible for engaging and supporting families

# Best Practices: Board Operations

- Make meetings and documents are accessible
- Create opportunities for all constituents to provide public comment
- Ensure that advisory and governing bodies are representative of the demographics of your community

# Tools You Can Use to Create Change

- Model school board policy
- Parent survey research
- School leader rubric
- Questions for administrators

National PTA
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# Transforming Family-School Partnerships

## PTA National Standards Webinar Series

**Wed., Jan. 25**
2 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. EST

**Wed., Feb. 15**
2 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. EST

**Wed., Mar. 1**
2 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. EST

**Wed., Mar. 29**
2 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. EST

**Wed., Apr. 19**
2 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. EST

# National Standards *for* FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

## PTA.org/Standards

**Contact Us! FamilyEngagement@PTA.org**

**@NationalPTA**

#PTAStandards

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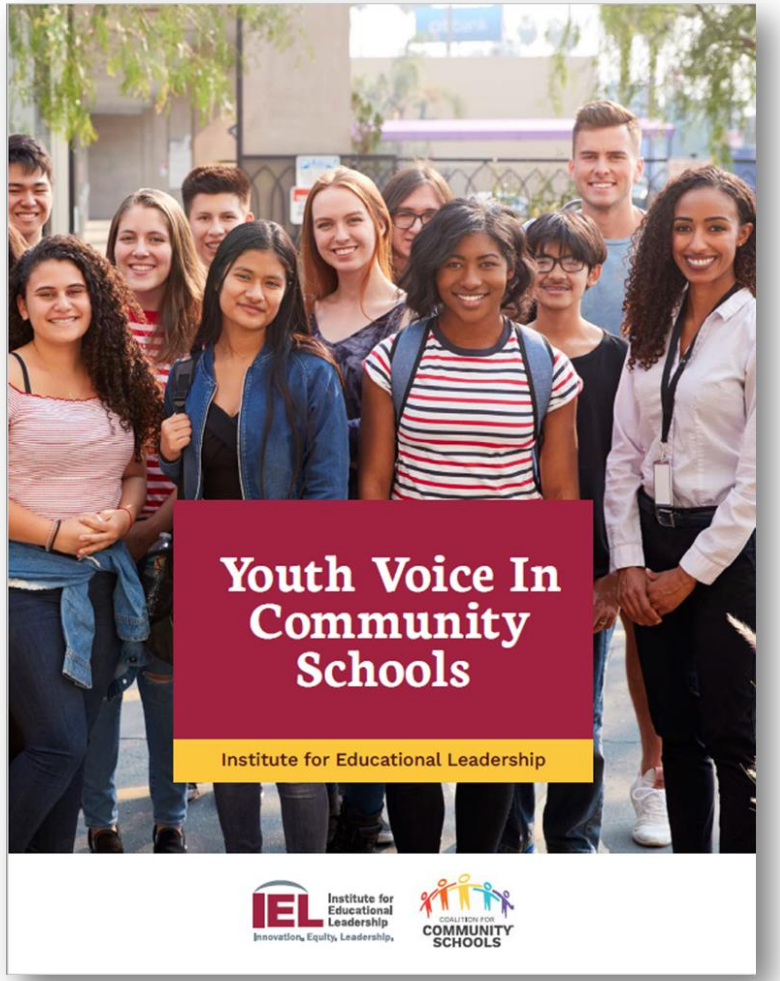
# Q&A

# Youth Voice in Community Schools Guide & Communication Survey

Please read the Youth Voice Guide and let us know if the guide is helpful through a 2-minute communication survey.

https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7203935/Youth-Voice-in-Community-Schools-Communication-Survey

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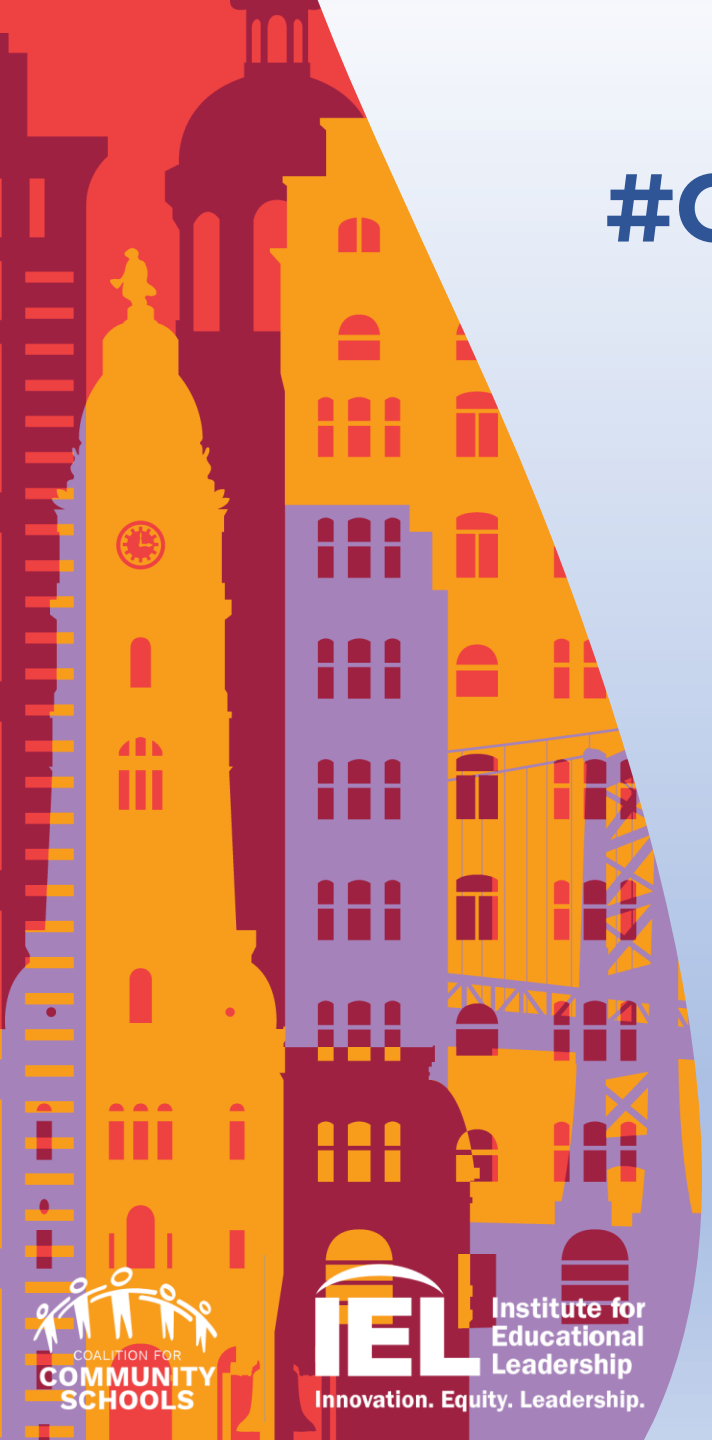

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**To view previous webinar recordings, access our research agenda, and the Community Schools Research Clearinghouse, visit** https://www.communityschools.org/link/join-a-network/research-practice-network/

# Thank You!

[Please fill out the post-webinar feedback form!]