Creating Dynamic Family-School Partnerships: Key Parent Roles

Core Components: Successful Models

Patty Bunker
National Director
Parenting Partners
Family Leadership Inc.
The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships

**The Challenge**
- Lack of opportunities for **School/Program Staff** to build the capacity for partnerships
- Lack of opportunities for **Families** to build the capacity for partnerships

**Opportunity Conditions**
- **Process Conditions**
  - Linked to learning
  - Relational
  - Development vs. service orientation
  - Collaborative
  - Interactive

- **Organizational Conditions**
  - Systemic: across the organization
  - Integrated: embedded in all programs
  - Sustained: with resources and infrastructure

**Policy and Program Goals**
- To build and enhance the capacity of staff/families in the "4 C" areas:
  - **Capabilities** (skills and knowledge)
  - **Connections** (networks)
  - **Cognition** (beliefs, values)
  - **Confidence** (self-efficacy)

**Family and Staff Capacity Outcomes**
- **School and Program Staff** who can
  - Honor and recognize families’ funds of knowledge
  - Connect family engagement to student learning
  - Create welcoming, inviting cultures

- **Families who can negotiate multiple roles**
  - Supporters
  - Encouragers
  - Monitors
  - Advocates
  - Decision Makers
  - Collaborators

**Effective Family–School Partnerships**
- Supporting Student Achievement & School Improvement
The Family’s Role

Everyone Agrees…

• Academic
• Social
• Emotional Development
Common Refrain:

• Desire: More Families
• Diverse Backgrounds & Cultures
• Engaged in Child’s Education
• Strong Partnerships – Home & Schools
What is your vision for Effective Family-School Partnerships at your school?
The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships

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**Effective Family-School Partnerships**
Supporting Student Achievement & School Improvement
Ineffective Family-School Partnerships:

The Challenge:

Building Capacity for Partnerships
The Challenge:

• Current Policies & Programs
• Flawed Assumptions
• Collective Capacity to Succeed
Some Parenting Partners Observations

Flawed Practices/ Assumptions

• Parents as Consumers vs. Partners
• Service Delivery vs. Valuing Parents’ Contributions
• Expecting Involvement w/o Investing in Capacity Building
• District Wide vs. School-based
• Academic Focus vs. Parent Skills
The Evolution of Parent Engagement

- Developing a new mindset
  - Parent engagement is no longer just a compliance issue

- Family Engagement vs. Parent Involvement

- Moving beyond Random, Discrete Activities

- Building leadership capacity
Influential Voices:

- Dr. Karen Mapp - Harvard Family Research
- Joyce Epstein: NNPS, Johns Hopkins (6 Types of Parent Involvement)
- U.S. Dept of Education – new framework
Characteristics of Effective Programs Organizationally:

- Systemic
- Integrated
- Sustainable

**OPPORTUNITY CONDITIONS**

**Process Conditions**
- Linked to learning
- Relational
- Development vs. service orientation
- Collaborative
- Interactive

**Organizational Conditions**
- Systemic: across the organization
- Integrated: embedded in all programs
- Sustained: with resources and infrastructure
Characteristics of Effective Programs - Process:

- Linked to learning
- Relational
- Development vs. Service Orientation
- Collaborative
- Interactive

What do these mean?
Focus: Building Capacity

All 4 needed:

• Capabilities (Skills and Knowledge)
• Connections (Networks)
• Cognition (Beliefs, Values)
• Confidence (Self-efficacy)
Effective Partnership Outcomes:

**Staff Outcomes:**
- Create Welcoming, Inviting cultures
- Honor and Value Families Contributions
- Connect Engagement to Student Learning

**Family Outcomes:**
Families who engage in multiple roles:
- Supporters
- Encouragers
- Monitors
- Advocates
- Decision-Makers
- Collaborators
DISCUSSION

- What do you find helpful from the U.S. Department of Education’s “Dual Capacity-Building Framework?

- What stands out as distinct, or perhaps ‘new’ in thinking about Creating Dynamic Partnerships?
Family Engagement: HOW

- Cultivate and Sustain
- Positive Relationships
- Partnerships for Shared Responsibility
- Build Key Parent Roles
Selecting Best Practice Programs: A Checklist

✓ Builds Key Parent Roles
✓ Best Practice – Research/Outcomes based
✓ Practical and Relational
✓ Develops Parents’ Skills & Capacity
✓ Partnership for Achievement
✓ Builds Parent Leadership
✓ Sustainable – Ongoing support
Selecting Best Practice Programs: A Checklist

✓ Builds Key Parent Roles
    .....Introducing Key Roles to Parents
Parent Roles Skit

What are some of your Dreams and Goals for your children?

What are the Risk Factors your children face that could prevent them from reaching these goals?
Key Parent Roles – In Student Achievement

- **Encouraging**
  - Building an Achievement Identity / “Can Do” Spirit / Positive Self Image

- **Supporting**
  - Children and Teen’s Learning & Development

- **Creating Structure**
  - Family routines / Boundaries for time and behavior.

- **Leadership**
  - Advocating - Parents as leaders at home, school, and community.

- **Communicating**
  - Talking together / Expressing high expectations

- **Modeling**
  - Lifelong Learning / Reading Daily / Enthusiasm for Education

- **Partnering**
  - Connecting Home to School / Monitor School Work / Plan for Further Education

- **Collaborating**
  - Working Together for School Improvement / School & Community Networks

Parenting Partners
Engaged for Achievement
Encouraging

• Building an achievement Identity
• “Can Do” Spirit
• Positive Self Image
Communicating

• Talking together
• Expressing high expectations
Modeling

• Lifelong Learning
• Reading Daily
• Enthusiasm for Education
Creating Structure

• Family routines
• Boundaries for time and behavior
Selecting Best Practice Programs: A Checklist

✓ Best Practice – Research/Outcomes based

.....Share Valuable Research with Parents

.....Track and Report Outcomes
Research Demonstrating Parent Engagement Outcomes

- **FRAMEWORK**: Partnering, Communicating, Structure, Modeling
- **PARENT ACTION**: Parent/Teacher Partnership, Parent/Teacher Communication, Parent Checking Homework, Shared Reading
- **GPA**: UP .35, UP .28, UP .27, UP .51

**Parenting Partners**: Engaged for Achievement
Best Practices in Parent Engagement from Research

40% More A's & B's with Family Meals Together
Research Links Family Roles in Education with Indicators of Student Achievement
Research Links Family Roles in education with Indicators of Student Achievement

- Graduates of Parenting Partners increase:
  1) Hours spent reading together.
  2) On time school attendance.
  3) Monitoring homework completion and studying.
  4) Consistent structure at home.
  5) Use of positive discipline and consequences.
  6) Support: talking together more often.
  7) Positive family communication.
  8) Volunteer involvement at school.
Selecting Best Practice Programs: A Checklist

☑ Practical and Relational
    ..... Build on Parent Strengths
    ..... Small Group, Interactive Model
    ..... Honor and Value Parent Contributions
We invite them as leaders.

We identify & build on parents strengths.
Valuable Parenting Qualities

Caring  Good Listener  Flexible

Loving  Trustworthy  Consistent

Patient  Creative  Playful

Follow-Through  Structured
Selecting Best Practice Programs: A Checklist

✓ Develops Parents’ Skills & Capacity
   .... to be effective in all the Key Parent Roles
Key Parent Roles – In Student Achievement

- Encouraging: Building an Achievement Identity / “Can Do” Spirit / Positive Self Image
- Supporting: Children and Teen’s Learning & Development
- Creating Structure: Family routines / Boundaries for time and behavior
- Leadership: Advocating - Parents as leaders at home, school, and community
- Communicating: Talking together / Expressing high expectations
- Modeling: Lifelong Learning / Reading Daily / Enthusiasm for Education
- Partnering: Connecting Home to School / Monitor School Work / Plan for Further Education
- Collaborating: Working Together for School Improvement / School & Community Networks
How do parents become positive and constructive leaders?

Parenting Skills are Leadership Skills
- Listening
- Clear Expectations
- Dealing with conflict
- Affirmation and Encouraging
Paper Heart Skit
Words that wound the hearts of our children
Positive Power
Words for Parents

Words for Listening Well
Words for Encouraging
Positive Power
Words for Parents

Words that Affirm Character

Words that Frame A Positive Future

Parenting Partners™
Engaged for Achievement
The Argument Trap

What Are Some Reasons Why Kids & Teens Argue?
Ending Arguments & Setting Boundaries

Stand Strong
• Use few words
• Don’t engage
• Repeat like a broken record
Don’t Take The Bait!
Parents Ignore The Polls
Selecting Best Practice Programs: A Checklist

✓ Partnership for Achievement

....Creating capacity for parents and staff to work together in support of academic achievement
Parent Roles in Family – School Partnership

Connecting Home and School
Partnering

• Connecting Home to School
• Monitor School Work
• Plan for Further Education
Collaborating

• Working Together for School Improvement

• School and Community Networks
Leadership

- Advocating
- Parents as leaders at home, school, and community
Creating Structure for Achievement

The Parent/Teacher Connection
On Track for Higher Education

Top Study Skills: Helping Your Child Learn

Connecting Home and School

Learning Standards
Every Parent Can Build Reading Power

Parenting Partners™
Engaged for Achievement
Top Study Skills

Top Study Skills Topics

1. Game Plan for Test Preparation
2. Game Plan for Test Preparation Part Two
3. Break It Up—Add Spacing & Variety to Your Study Time
4. Finding the Best Places for Learning
5. Limiting Interruptions is Vital
6. Motivation and Setting Priorities
7. Positive Family Communication
8. Time Management Routines for Better Grades
9. Sleep—Waking up to Learn Better
The Parent/Teacher Connection

Topics include:

1. Practicing Great Parent–Teacher Conferences
2. Parent–Teacher Conference Tip Sheets from Harvard Family Research Project
3. What Should You Talk to the Teacher About?
4. Bridging Communication Styles
5. Practicing Brief, Positive Presentations

“The relationship between home and school serves as the foundation for shared learning and responsibility.”
A Middle School Case Study

Morgain Sanchez
Parent Engagement Coordinator for CSR Colorado

Parent Liaisons
Fidel Salazar
Eldia Luvin
Towanna Henderson
Goal: To increase engagement of historically underserved parents, and to provide parents with the tools that are necessary to support their children academically.

First Steps:
Action plans built with school administrators tailored to the needs of our individual schools. Office hours in each school that allow us to support families with resources, and to support teachers and staff with parent outreach.
Parent Outreach

Our experience has shown that building a foundation of strong relationships with parents results in increased meaningful engagement.
We start with Parenting Partners classes. These are some of the things that parents have said:

“This information is so good, that on the weekends I invite my friends over and have my own Parenting Partners session!” – Hill Middle School

“My husband and our teenaged son had not been able to talk for such a long time. I’ve been sharing with him what I’ve learned in Parenting Partners, and now they are talking more – this is pure gold!” – Lake Middle School,
Students First - Parenting Partners

CSR families that took the 40 Developmental Assets Workshop and decided to take the Parenting Partners classes. This picture is on their graduation day from the class.
CSR Colorado

Parent Engagement Team

Fun and Collaboration - Family Educational Field Trips

In collaboration with school staff and museum institutions, the parent engagement team organizes fun Family Educational Field Trips to different museums throughout the school year. These visits are awarded to students who have excellent achievement in Science and Social Studies; students are allowed to invite their entire family to attend with them.
CSR for Parents teaches parents how to use the important reading strategies with their children at home!

These are some of the things that parents have said:

“Thanks for offering this training, now I know how to help my children in reading and teach them how important it is to understand what they are reading.” – Skinner Middle School, CSR for Parents

“I learned so much about how our students have different responsibilities in their groups, and how that helps them learn. Thank you for teaching us how to help our students!”- Lake International
CSR Colorado

Parent Engagement Team

Collaboration and Equity - CSR for Parents

The P.E. team collaborates with school staff and plans CSR family nights with the teacher leaders to educate families on how CSR works in the classroom. We ensure to cover any needs families have to attend the meetings; such as, language barriers.
Highly engaged parents take on leadership roles at the school and district level

We offer a Parent Leadership class that teaches parents to look at data, communication skills, and public speaking!

This is a comment from a parent who took our leadership class: “This class has opened up my eyes even more, now I want to be more involved in my daughter’s school and I don’t want only her to succeed, I want all the kids to graduate and go to college and succeed in life.”

Our partner in work with parents is the community-based advocacy group Padres y Jovenes Unidos, whose work focuses on supporting parents through home visits and leadership training.
Selecting Best Practice Programs: A Checklist

✓ Sustainable – Ongoing support
  .... Funding comes and goes, so effective Parent Engagement models must be sustainable

✓ Builds Parent Leadership
Success starts at home.
We empower parents to give their children the best opportunity to succeed.

We’re a Trainer of Trainers model.

Each school has its own presenting team.

Parents attend 8 workshops, each 90 minutes.
How does the 
Facilitator Team Training work?

With 4 manageable steps...
Each School forms a team with up to 6 members.

Team includes parents & key staff members
The team attends the 2-day Facilitators Training together

- Teams practice presenting the workshops
- Each team receives coaching at their table in their own language
How young people argue

- Avoiding/delaying
- Child

How Parents argue:
- 1. Delay/Avoid task
- 2. Wear the parent out
- 3. Distractions
- 4. Have fun
- 5. Control/Power
At the close of training, teams have everything they need.

- Competence, Confidence, Certification
- Complete team plan for strong attendance
- Coach for ongoing support & tracking results
- Comprehensive Team Resource Kit
Parenting Partners™ Training Materials

Team Resources

Creating Structure

Modeling

Como Dirigir con Éxito Talleres de Liderazgo para Padres

How to Run Successful Parent Leadership Workshops
Parenting Partners
Team Resources include:

- Facilitator Manuals in English & Spanish
- 40 Parent Workbooks
- Parent Marketing & Organizing Book
- 30 Day Action Plan Posters
- Online Resources, Books and Posters
- PowerPoint and DVDs
- Interactive Presentation Tools
- Evaluation Tools & Reports

Parenting Partners™ Training Materials
Teams now lead the 8-week workshop series at their school.

Teams can offer the workshops multiple times throughout the year.
Join the Parenting Partners Team.

Multiply Family Engagement!
Your Leadership Will Benefit More Parents and Children!
Outcomes

Students increase their reading time at home.

Reading scores improve.

Students are better prepared for the school day.

ADA Attendance improves.

Students’ Behavior Improves.
Outcomes

Increased Academic Achievement

Parents Engaged for Student Success

Increased Parent Leadership Capacity

Parenting Partners™
Engaged for Achievement
Pre-Survey and Post-Survey Report

Parenting Partners provides each school and district with real time data to track the progress of parents and their children. Team leaders on each school team give parents pre and post questionnaires through their choice of an online version or hardcopy of the questionnaire. We compile data, and the school and district receive a 12 page report on outcomes.

The Team Support Specialists on our Parenting Partners staff make sure the process is easy! The Team Support Specialists will provide you with the direct link and generate a report for your school. You just have to make sure parents fill out both a pre and post questionnaire. Samples from the district report are provided below.

### Parent Involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Number of Hours</th>
<th>Spent Reading with Children per Week</th>
<th>Average Number of Hours</th>
<th>Spent Volunteering at School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-Test</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Post-Test</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of hours spent reading with children per week:</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>Average number of hours spent volunteering at work:</td>
<td>1.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post-Test</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of hours spent reading with children per week:</td>
<td>3.89</td>
<td>Average number of hours spent volunteering at work:</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey Report Summary

Pre-Test
Average number of hours spent reading with children per week: 2.67

Post-Test
Average number of hours spent reading with children per week: 3.89

Parents increase in the amount of time they spend reading with their children each week.
Survey Report Summary

Question #12: Notice that the percentage of parents checking their child’s homework increased after they completed the Parenting Partner workshops.

12. I check my child(ren) homework after they complete it.
Survey Report Summary

Question #14: Notice that the percentage of children arriving on time to school significantly increased after parents completed the Parenting Partners workshop.

14. My child(ren) is/are always on time to school.
Survey Report Summary

Question #27: Notice that the percentage of parents providing consistent structure at home increased after the parents completed the Parenting Partners workshop.

27. As a parent, I provide consistent structure in our home on a daily basis.
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Core Components: Successful Models

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