Association of Alaska School Boards
2019 Experienced Board Academy on Family Engagement

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A Parent’s Story
Objectives

• Understand how a strong relationship between students, families, their communities and schools and the programs students are part of can help students be more successful in school and life.
• Hear about effective community and family relationship building practices and ways to strengthen current relationship building strategies.
• Learn about work happening nationally and in our state, best practices for engagement and examples of successful strategies.
• Work with districts to begin Family Engagement plan
• Provide feedback on Alaska’s own Family Engagement framework, developed by AASB and partners across the state.
OUR TIME TODAY

• Family Partnership In Alaska
• Family Engagement Overview
• Understanding Families
• Michele Brooks: Engagement for Achievement & Equity
• Across our State
• A Framework for Partnership
• Planning for FE
Our Agreements

In Every Chair, A Leader

Speak to be Understood; Listen to Understand

Value Our Time Together

Be Present; Be Engaged

Safe Space for Meaningful Conversation

Challenges to Solutions

Takeest Thou Hats Off

Our Value of Humor Helps Us

We are Responsible for Our Experience

Take Care of Yourself; Take Care of Each Other

Adapted from First Alaskans Institute
What do you see?
Building on Strengths
Families in Alaska: A Closer Look
Family Engagement in Alaska?

How often do you participate in decision-making at school?

Daily 7%
Weekly 6%
Monthly 11%
Once a semester 13%
Yearly 9%
Never 54%
What would help you be more involved in your student’s school?

- 10% strong relationships with school staff
- 9% better communication with school
- 10% timing of meetings
- 8% personal invitations
- 8% clear roles for school involvement
- 8% active parent group at the school
- 8% feeling welcomed by school staff
- 7% involvement in decision-making within school.
- 6% Feeling connected to other parents at my school.
- 6% School staff understanding community and culture
Experiences With:

- Schools - historical and modern day
- With their children, culture and community
- Partnership expectations
Michele Brooks presenting
“Leveraging Engagement for Achievement and Equity”
Family Partnership In Alaska

Sonya Hunte, Sr. Director, Equity & Compliance, Anchorage School District

Supt. Ralph Strong, Hoonah City Schools

Noelle Derse, Family Engagement Specialist, Juneau School District
Introduction & Family Partnership in Alaska

Building Block 1: Building Intentional: Embed a spirit of collaboration

- Building Block 2: Relationship-centered: Build relationships and connections with students and families
- Building Block 3: Culturally Response: Honor cultures and community
- Building Block 4: Linked to Learning - Connect families to classroom content and student outcomes
- Building Block 5: Skills-based: Build confidence and skills of families and staff (Building Block 5)

Putting Together: Visioning Family Partnership
FRAMEWORK FOR ALASKA

Document on Flip chart

Choose someone to share out for your group.
How can your district strengthen partner with families for student success?

- What are parent’s telling you?
- What areas of the framework has your district focused on?
- What does staff still need?
- What do families still need?
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CHOOSE YOUR TOOL

Action Plans!

Which step are you on?

I want to do it
I can't do it
I won't do it

I'll try to do it
I can do it
I will do it

Yay! Yes! I did it
Moving Forward

• What are some of the key takeaways you learned today around Family Engagement?

• What is one thing you are committing to do or share when you return back to your community?

Write your ideas on a sticky note.
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