## 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

Takest 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

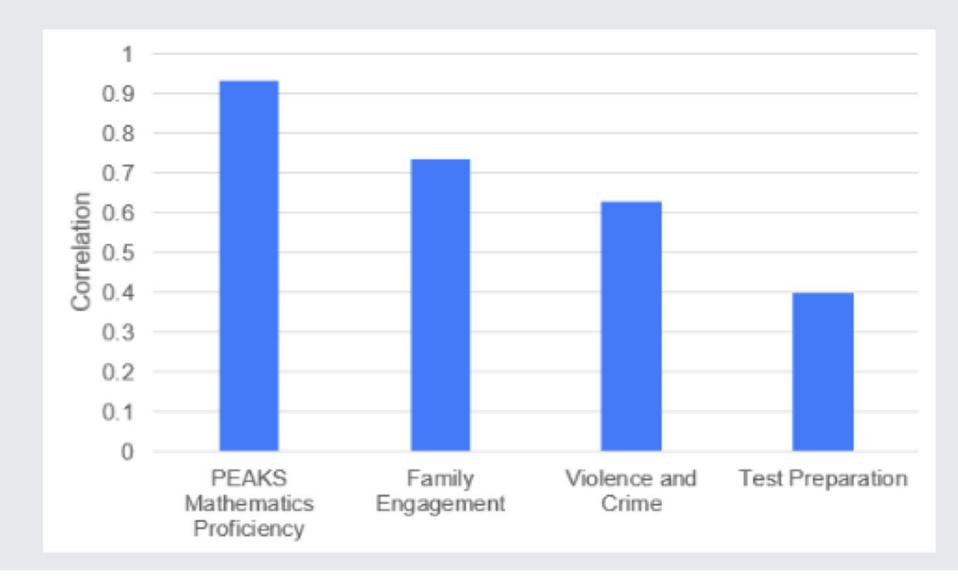




### Families in Alaska: A Closer Look



school boards





## 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**





## **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.



### Association of Alaska School Boards 2019 Advanced Academy on Family Engagement

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