



Increasing Family & Community Engagement

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“Raising the next generation is a shared responsibility. When families, communities and schools work together, students are more successful and the entire community benefits.”

US Department of Education



association of
ALASKA
school boards

National Research

Over the past decade, regardless of family income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs
- Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school
- Graduate and go on to postsecondary education

*Source: **A New Wave of Evidence**, Southwest Educational Development Laboratory.*

What does Alaska Data say?

- School Climate and Connectedness Survey
 - Students who report low family engagement are more likely to have missed school one or more times without permission.
 - Students who report low family engagement more likely to have lower grades.



What have you seen at your school or in your community?



Dual Capacity Framework



Framework Core

Designing family engagement initiatives that build capacity among educators and families to **partner** with one another around student success.



Core Components (How?)

- **Connections-** Building trusting relationships
- **Confidence-** Developing skills and a belief that one can learn/ grow to learn a skill.
- **Collaboration-** Working together as a team.
- **Content-** linking to classroom learning.



Alaska/AASB Adaptations

- **Culture:** Families feel welcomed and connected when they see and feel their culture, values and ways of knowing are integrated into the school environment (measured through SCCS).
- **Co-regulation:** How adults help students to manage emotions, attention and manage behaviors.



What else has Worked

- **Multiple strategies-** accounting for different student populations
- **Clear goals** that are tracked over time
- Get school administrators, staff, community partners and families **on the same page**
- **Increase capacity** of staff and families. and have students help



Family Engagement in Alaska

- AISD parent focus group to get started
- KSD family nights led by teachers
- Community engagement survey KSD





**How does your district
engage families in your
communities?**



Planning for Family Engagement

- Know where you are going
- Think school readiness
- Share leadership
- Meet families where they are at
- Evaluate your efforts & tell your story

Resources for Family Engagement

- Dual Capacity framework packet
- Resources specific to principals and teachers
- AASB services
 - In service trainings for school and district staff
 - Facilitated planning for family engagement
 - Workshops for school boards, families and communities
 - Student , staff, family SCCS



Family Survey (SCCS)



- Cultural Connectedness
- Family & Community Involvement
- Family Engagement at Home
- Family Engagement at School
- Opportunities for Involvement

Board Roles

- **VISION:** Create a shared vision to enhance student achievement.
- **STRUCTURE:** Provides a structure that supports the vision. This includes policies, strategic plans, budgets.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Measures district performance toward accomplishing the vision, and reports the results to the public.
- **ADVOCACY:** Champions the vision.
- **CONDUCT-ETHICS:** Conduct the business of the district in a fair, respectful and responsible manner.



Reflections

- What will you do?
- What strategies could work in your community?

