

# Build Leadership

Expand the awareness, skills, abilities, and confidence of families, schools, and communities to effectively support student learning at school, at home, and in the community. When everyone's skills grow, it makes a collective impact that enables everyone to understand "the why" and the importance of joint decision-making. Follow the continuous improvement journey to begin your work.

## PLAN

Family engagement is not a program, activity, or event. The Oklahoma Family Engagement Framework establishes it as a shared responsibility among families, schools, and communities to build relationships that support a child's learning and growth from birth through college and career. With this pathway identified as a priority through your planning process, your next step will be to guide your team through the Do and Review steps.

## DO

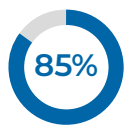
- How will you support all staff (e.g., professional development, scheduling, resources) in building their awareness, skills, abilities, and confidence to understand the importance of family engagement? How will you work with families to build trusting and meaningful relationships to support their children's learning?
- At all levels of your organization, how will your family engagement plan encourage joint decision-making, student and family voice and choice?
- How can you help families become more engaged in their children's learning so that their knowledge base grows for helping their children learn? Are families understanding "the why" behind learning assignments?
- How will your plan help families build confidence to engage in their children's learning experiences at school and at home?
- How will you identify potential challenges families may face (e.g., technology, supplies, time) and what each family has contributed or has to offer (e.g., interests, skills, strengths) in supporting their child's learning?
- What family leadership opportunities exist within your district, school, or organization? What specific efforts have focused on building their leadership skills?
- What family afterschool tribal programs exist within your district? Are you aware of any tribal community centers that have community meetings?
- What resources and tools will your team need to be successful to build leadership?

## REVIEW

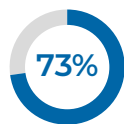
- What happened when you implemented your plan?
- Is there evidence or data to show improvement or impact?
- What should you start, stop, or continue to do?
- What are your next steps? Who needs to be engaged? What resources do you need to ensure success?

## Know the Facts

### Families are activated to Redefine Relationships Between Schools and Homes



of families are **very/somewhat likely** to develop a stronger relationship with their child's teacher(s) than they have in the past



of families are **very/somewhat likely** to get a better understanding of what their child is expected to learn at his/her grade level

LEARNING HEROES: Parents 2020

## Pathway in Action

In *Engage Every Family: Five Simple Principles*, Dr. Constantino shares strategies to build leadership among families. He navigates the concept of “changing the questions” for family/child at-home conversations (e.g., Changing the question from, “What did you do in school today?” to a more specific question about a classroom assignment). He provides examples of how to create a transparent school/classroom by teachers sharing content information on a regular basis with families using modern-day technology applications (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, web pages, cell phone, email, texts, and other technology available to you). Dr. Constantino challenges you to ask, “Are you engaging the already engaged? How do you engage the disengaged?” With an emphasis on **meaningful** and **relevant**, he guides you through a series of examples to help you understand why families make decisions about whether they want to be involved or engaged in activities or trainings you have to offer families. Motivating families to become engaged is the key first step to promoting success for every student and family.

## Resources

The authors of these books are leaders in the field of family, school, and community partnerships. They provide real-world examples, tools, and resources.

- *Powerful Partnerships: A Teacher's Guide to Engaging Families for Student Success* (Mapp et al., 2017)
- *Engage Every Family: Five Simple Principles*, Second Edition (Constantino, 2021)
- *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action*, Third Edition (Epstein et al., 2009)
- *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships* (Henderson et al., 2007)

Based on existing research and best practices, the *Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships* Version 2 ([www.dualcapacity.org](http://www.dualcapacity.org)) is designed to support the development of family engagement strategies, policies, and programs (Mapp, K.L. & Bergman, E., 2019).

## Going Forward

- Set a regular time for your team to work together.
- Introduce your team to resources specific to this pathway.
- Explore the pathway and what it looks like in your organization.