**1.10.1 ACP – Building a Relationship with Families**

Topic: *Become aware of best practices for engaging students’ families and other meaningful adults; utilize new and existing strategies to engage families in students’ ACP processes.*

**Prerequisite:** None

**Audience:** ACP Teams

**Activity Goal**

ACP Prep and Planning

Determine how to build relationships with students’ families and other meaningful adults in order to engage them in multiple aspects of academic and career planning.

Background Knowledge for the Presenter

* Administrative rule PI-26 includes the following language concerning family engagement:

The school district’s long-range Education for Employment program shall include…

(b) A process used to engage parents in academic and career planning. The process shall do all of the following:  
 1. Inform parents in each school year about what academic and career planning services their child receives.  
 2. Provide parents with multiple opportunities during each school year to participate in their child's academic and career planning.  
 3. Update parents throughout the school year on the progress of their child's academic and career planning.

* Effective family engagement strategies include providing families with accessible, understandable, and actionable data on their child’s progress. When educators share student data with families—including traditional measurements of student progress, such as test scores and course grades, as well as less traditional information such as a student’s preparedness and problem solving ability—families are able to gain a comprehensive understanding of their child’s strengths, interests and challenges, and identify action steps to help advance the child’s learning.

<http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/tips-for-administrators-teachers-and-families-how-to-share-data-effectively>

* The presenter will want to closely review the PTA (Parent and Teacher Association) National Standards for Family-School Partnerships report <http://www.pta.org/files/National_Standards_Implementation_Guide_2009.pdf>, as it offers numerous strategies for engaging families. It also includes assessment resources. The strategies are structured around the six PTA standards and provide specific goals, indicators, and examples of what good practice looks like. The six “building partnership” standards are:

1. **Welcoming all families into the school community**: Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.
2. **Communicating effectively with families**: Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.
3. **Supporting student success**: Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support student learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.
4. **Speaking up for every child**: Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
5. **Sharing responsibility**: Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families. Together they inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.
6. **Collaborating with community**: Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

\*\* This resource also has an example of a survey titled “The Power of Partnerships Family Survey, which includes assessment strategies for each standard.

* Review this list is on the DPI Title 1 webpage, “Twelve Promising Practices Schools Can do to Engage Parents.” <http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/title-i/pdf/twelve-promising-practices.pdf>

This resources could be used to make a “Top 10” list for your school.

**Materials Needed**

• Power Point – (DPI Title I) Parent Involvement Toolkit

<https://dpi.wi.gov/title-i/parent-involvement>

• Handout – Creating Family-School Partnerships (1.10.1A)

* Reference – PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. <http://www.pta.org/files/National_Standards_Implementation_Guide_2009.pdf>

• Handout – 10 Ways to Create Great Family Engagement (1.10.1B)

**Time Needed:** 60 minutes

**Procedures**

1. Review the Power Point (DPI Title I) Parent Involvement Toolkit with participants:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/title-i/parent-involvement>

1. Using the handout Creating Family-School Partnerships (1.11A), divide into teams and develop a list of strategies that are appropriate for your grade level and school. Each team should focus on one of the six “building partnership” standards developed by the Nation PTA.
2. Follow the sample format on the handout when developing strategies for parents and school leaders/staff. Teams can use any resources to develop strategies and ideas for building partnerships. One reference that would be helpful is the PTA National Standards Implementation Guide:

<http://www.pta.org/files/National_Standards_Implementation_Guide_2009.pdf>

1. Circle the best ideas, discuss and share with each other. Post ideas onto chart paper.
2. Using the handout 10 Ways to Create Great Family Engagement (11B), compile a list of the best family engagement strategies from the lists made on the “Creating Family-School Partnerships” activity. This can be created in grade level teams. Be prepared to share with others.
3. For suggestions on how to organize the top ideas, consult the references “10 Things Schools Can Do to Create Family-School Partnerships:”

<http://fscp.dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/fscp/pdf/tk10schools-can-do.pdf>

and “Twelve Promising Practices Schools Can do to Engage Parents:”

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/title-i/pdf/twelve-promising-practices.pdf>

**CREATING FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS**

Handout 1.10.1A

Directions:

1. Using the six standards developed by the National PTA for building partnerships between families, schools, and communities, divide into teams and develop a list of strategies that are appropriate for your grade level and school:
2. Welcoming All Families into the School Community
3. Communicating Effectively
4. Supporting Student Success
5. Speaking Up for Every Child
6. Sharing Power
7. Collaborating with Community.
8. Following the format of the sample below and using the template on the next page, use any of the resources available to you to gather ideas of building relationships with families and meaningful adults.

(e.g. <http://www.pta.org/files/National_Standards_Implementation_Guide_2009.pdf>).

1. Circle your best ideas and share with others. Record the collective list onto chart paper.

Sample Strategies

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Standard 1. Welcoming All Families into the School Community**  Goal: Build a Respectful, Inclusive School Community | |
| **What School Leaders and Staff Can Do:**  1. Be accessible and available. It’s one thing to say families are welcome and valued, but another thing to show it.  2. Develop guidelines to be used by school staff when greeting new parents.  3. Conduct meet-and-greet walks in the neighborhoods where students live. | **What Parents and Parent Leaders Can Do:**  1. Greet other parents at school activities and events; sit with someone you don’t know and get to know them.  2. Recruit bilingual parents to greet and interpret for families whose first language isn’t English.  4. Work to change the conversations going on “over the back fence.” If people complain, stay positive and point out how families can contribute. |

**Family Engagement Strategies**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **National PTA Standard \_\_\_** | |
| **What School Leaders and Staff Can Do:** | **What Parents and Parent Leaders Can Do:** |
| **National PTA Standard \_\_\_** | |
| **What School Leaders and Staff Can Do:** | **What Parents and Parent Leaders Can Do:** |
| **National PTA Standard \_\_\_** | |
| **What School Leaders and Staff Can Do:** | **What Parents and Parent Leaders Can Do:** |

**Ten Ways to Create *GREAT!* Family Engagement!**

Handout 1.10.1B

**Directions: Create a poster of the top 10 ways to inspire family engagement.**

**Ten Ways Our Schools *can* create *GREAT* Family Engagement!**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

**9.**

**10.**