

Family Engagement Minute October 2020

What is Family Engagement?

“Family Engagement is a full, equal, and equitable partnership among families, educators and community partners to promote children’s learning and development from birth through college and career.” -Ann Henderson & Judy Carson

Quick Tip:

Say hello to parents in their native or the language they feel most comfortable speaking. Greeting families creates a sense of welcoming, but saying hello in their native language shows a increases the sense to welcoming to also valuing families.

Evidence Based Model:

Parent Teacher Home Visit Project	Relationship building home visits where teachers visit students’ families following the non-negotiables below: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visits last 30 minutes and are voluntary for everyone• Educators are trained and compensated and go out in pairs.• All students (or a cross section) of students are visited (no negative targeting).• Visits focus on shared vision and values for success of students	# of students x \$60 (\$30 per teacher); Visits are # of students x \$100 in remote locations
-----------------------------------	---	---

Anecdotal Success Story:

“I just felt like I needed to write to you and tell you my thoughts on doing home visits this past fall [meaning Fall 2019]. I feel like I cannot adequately express my gratitude for this program. Not only was it an incredible experience but it strengthened my relationships with my parents. Now I know no one could have foreseen this COVID outbreak but I can tell you that my home visits have made an immeasurable difference in this new home-schooling world we are now experiencing. It almost makes me tear up to think how thankful I am that I took the time to do those because NOW it is paying off for my students, their parents, and myself. I can tell the level of communication is different from what it has been other years and I know it is because of that visit. This has been a very difficult learning curve for everyone involved but I feel as

though they are more comfortable talking to me about assignments, asking questions, expressing frustrations, and sharing joys! THANK YOU for giving us that opportunity and for bringing it to our district.” -Teacher, Box Elder District

Guiding Question:

What barriers keeps you or your staff from engaging with families? Take the time to unpack those barriers by making a list of barriers and coming up with solutions on ways to overcome them.