Parent/Family Engagement

Reaching “Hard-to-Reach” Parents

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PBIS Coaches Forum
Goals of our Presentation

- General principles leading to increased parental and community engagement
- How parents support schools in ways that school personnel may not typically recognize.
- Strategies for reducing barriers that may exist that hinder greater school engagement by some parents.
- Sharing some practices that have been effective in increasing involvement from parents that seem ‘hard to reach.’
Take Backs for PBIS Coaches

As your team’s coach, we hope you can impress upon your team to:

– Move beyond looking at the data and school-wide system in isolation, and use it to make lasting connections with Families.

– Maintain an intentional focus, with deliberate actions, to build reflective relationships.

You also have the role of a “Teacher Leader.”
YES!

Look at the data!

Plus, more…
Importance of Data

- Regular routine of reviewing data to make systematic changes
- Representative team to include all grade levels
- Larger scope perspective to build in quarterly school-wide events that include parents
- Do your discussions answer:

  How does PBIS make Lasting Connections with events which are then highlighted at home through what we do at school?
Parent/Family Feedback

How do you elicit feedback from parents/family?
- Surveys
- Focus Groups

How do you incorporate this feedback into practice?
What makes parents want to become involved?

1. Building Relationships
2. Validation of their role as parents
3. Maintaining Engagement through communication and building TRUST
4. Reflection skills found on your teacher evaluation
Where is your school?

Continuum

Building a Culture of Parent/Family:

Participation  Involvement  Engagement
Six Types of Parent Engagement
Joyce Epstein

- Parenting
- Communicating
- Volunteering
- Learning at home
- Decision Making
- Collaborating with Community
How do we break down barriers for our “Hard to Reach” Parents?

Current Research & One School’s Experiences
Welcoming & Friendly Environment

- Front Desk
- Morning Routines
- Lunch Visits
- Dismissal Routines
- Student Work & Artwork
- Classroom Visits
  - Volunteering
  - Field Trips
  - Conferences
- Building Staff
- What more?
Modeling of Principal Expectations for PBIS +

- TRUST
- All Staff
  - Begins with the Principal, Front Office, Teachers
- Transfer to ALL Staff Members – Do we all see the vision?
- Your role as coach, district or building level
Teacher Evaluation System

- How does Parent/Family Engagement fit into our new systems?
- Can we truly be “Highly Effective” without having Parent/Family Engagement?
Communication Opportunities
(School initiated)

- Traditional classroom and school newsletters
- Phone calls with translators
- Proactive calls – documentation
- Website
- Weekly Parent E-mail
- Social Media
- What more?

Then, Follow Up
- Even with external factors, how do handle sensitive issues and still maintain our relationships with trust?
  - Attendance
  - Community Service Needs
  - Health Concerns
Parent & Teacher Conferences

- Range of Time
  - Length of “window”
  - Day and Evening Times
- Goal – 100% Face to Face
  - Other Options
- Language Barrier
- Other Sites
  - Home
  - Work
  - Neutral Location
- What more?
Parent Voices

- Input through PTO
- Activities
- Communication
- Social Media
- E-mail
- Families reaching
  Families
- What more?
Community Events
Relationship Building

- Pool Party
- Skating Parties
- McDonalds’ Nights
- Bowling Party
- Family Picnic
- What more?
Power of Reflective Practices

It’s Not About the Nail!

It IS about

– Listening, rather than just hearing.
– Understanding, rather than fixing.
– Supporting, rather than judging.

Building a Culture of Parent/Family:

Participation  Involvement  Engagement
CR-PBIS Indiana

Make outreach a priority; take the extra steps necessary to make it possible for families to get involved at school, as well at home.


CR-PBIS Indiana

Thank you for attending this session.

Contact us for more information at:
http://www.indiana.edu/~pbisind/about/