

# Framework for Family, School, & Community Partnerships: The TOOL



# Framework for Family, School, and Community Partnership

No.	Standard	Goals	Guiding Questions
1	<b>Welcoming All Families</b>	Create a welcoming climate.  Build a respectful, inclusive community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Are there opportunities for families to develop personal relationships with teachers, staff, and the principal?</li> <li>-Is the atmosphere family-friendly for everyone, not just the 'in' crowd?</li> <li>-Are the contributions of families, regardless of race, culture, language, and education valued?</li> <li>-Are events, programs, and activities for families and students low-cost or free?</li> </ul>
2	<b>Communicating Effectively</b>	Create a network of communication between the schools and all families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Do all families feel informed about important issues, translated both orally and in writing?</li> <li>-Do parent committees reflect the school's racial and ethnic mix? Do you encourage all parent input and ideas?</li> <li>-Has your school created the perception that a dominant parent group in the know? Do you encourage all parent input and ideas?</li> <li>-Does assigned homework call for parent-student interaction?</li> </ul>
3	<b>Supporting Student Success</b>	Share information about student progress.  Engage families to support learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Do you ensure open communication on student progress, including translation if needed?</li> <li>-Do you make sure parents know what good work looks like for their child's age and grade?</li> <li>-Are families taught how to be active participants in their children's learning at home and school?</li> <li>-In what ways do school staff develop families' capacity to strengthen learning at home?</li> </ul>
4	<b>Speaking Up For Every Child</b>	Understand the school game.  Empower families in supporting their own and other's children's success in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Does your school ensure that all children have an advocate who understands their rights and responsibilities under federal and state law and local policies?</li> <li>-Do parents know who to contact about what, and where to go for information they need in the school or district?</li> <li>-Do parents know how to get a problem resolved and how to appeal a decision they don't agree with?</li> <li>-Do you ensure that advisors meet with each student and family to map out a plan for the student's future—college or technical skill?</li> </ul>
5	<b>Sharing Power</b>	Guarantee the family's voice in shared decision making.  Build families' social and political connections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Do families sit at the table or have a vote when decisions that touch their children are being made?</li> <li>-Are only the 'in crowd' of parents making the decisions, or do all families have access to share in the process?</li> <li>-What governance structures exist to discuss and weigh issues of equity, such as which children are eligible for the gifted program?</li> <li>-Do school and parent leaders make sure the parent organization truly represents all families in both membership and its leadership?</li> </ul>
6	<b>Collaborating With the Community</b>	Connect the school and all families with community resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Do parent and school leaders work closely with parents, neighborhood associations, businesses, and institutions of higher learning to strengthen the school?</li> <li>-Do partnerships with community groups strengthen families and support student success?</li> <li>-Have you created a broad base of partners in and around the school to help achieve desired results?</li> <li>-Are school, family and community organizations involved in meeting the goals?</li> </ul>

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