

The **POWER** of

Effective Family Engagement and Community Involvement

Enriching Your Family Engagement Team

THE IDEAL TEAM SIZE

is between six and twelve members. Less than six would not provide sufficient representation from all stakeholder groups; more than twelve may impede progress.

TEAMS MAY MEET during any time that is agreed upon by all members; before school, after school, PLC or another time.

PRINCIPAL SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL; According to feedback from 2009–2010 Site Contacts, principal presence at team meetings and open support of family engagement is critical.

INVITE THE INSTRUCTIONAL COACH to be a member of the team to maximize professional development opportunities.

HAVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT REPRESENTATION ON THE LEADERSHIP TEAM; doing so will encourage higher levels of communication and streamlined efforts.

BUILD CAPACITY IN CREATIVE WAYS.

Provide all staff with meaningful family engagement research, strategies and tools on a regular basis; utilize a variety of methods to communicate this information (staff meetings and newsletters, professional development, in-service, e-mail tidbits, signs, etc.)



All schools are expected to have an active Family Engagement Team. Family Engagement Teams are action teams designed to increase student achievement by facilitating a home-school partnership with every family. The team should be deliberate and strategic in their efforts to build staff capacity and engage families and community in the educational experiences of students. An extension of the School Improvement Plan, the family engagement goals should be specific and measurable with clearly defined outcomes. By embedding family engagement into the School Improvement Plan, teams will also be supporting the implementation of MTSS (Multi-Tier System of Supports).

SELECTING THE TEAM MEMBERS:

It is important that careful thought be given to selecting the members of the Family Engagement Team. Not only will the members of this team be an integral part of developing, implementing, and evaluating the Action Plan, they will also be leaders among their peers in the area of family engagement. Family Engagement Team members should:

- Represent administration, grade level staff, specials and exploratory staff, support staff, parents and community.
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to family and community engagement.
- Possess the ability to work productively within and across teams.
- Maintain good relationships and exert positive influence within the staff and/or their peer group.

THE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT TEAM WILL:

- Meet at least monthly but more often if needed.
- Assess school needs for engaging families and community in student learning.
- Develop and implement the Parent Involvement Policy, Compact and Family Engagement Action Plan with support from the staff.
- Plan, develop and deliver Family Engagement professional development to staff.
- Model research-based family engagement strategies for staff.
- Collaborate with and support other planning teams within the school (Leadership, MTSS, Site Council, Parent Organizations, Community Partners, etc).
- Evaluate progress regularly, making adjustments at the earliest identification of need.
- Maintain thorough documentation of family and community connections.