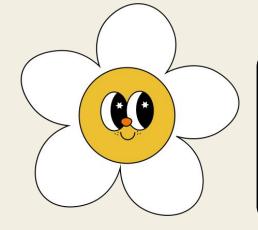
Get Motivated to Increase Family Involvement **Angie Warner**

Background

Wife, mom, "gamaw"

- 26 plus years PTA experience from serving at the local unit level, on the Independence Council PTA and on the Missouri PTA Board of Managers.
- Current PTA President at Procter Elementary
- Treasurer for ICPTA
- Secretary for Missouri PTA Board of Managers

In my 26th year working as a Recovery Room
 Interventionist in the Independence School District.

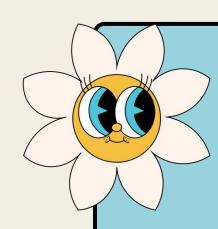


Family Involvement

WALLY IS IT

It Benefit BURGETART?

- Children whose families are engaged in their education are more likely to:
 - earn higher grades and score higher on tests;
 - graduate from high school and college;
 - develop self-confidence and motivation in the classroom;
 and
 - have better social skills and classroom behavior.



Why is it difficult to involve families?

- Parents have different priorities
- Working parents
- Single parent home
- More grandparents raising kids, stretched too thin
- Language & cultural barrier
- Poverty, lack of transportation

Difference Between Family Involvement & Family Engagement

Involvement is the first step towards **engagement**. It includes participation in school events or activities, with teachers providing learning resources and information about their student's grades. With **involvement**, teachers hold the primary responsibility to set educational goals.

With **engagement**, home and school come together as a team. Schools empower families by providing them with ways to actively participate, promoting them as important voices in the school and removing barriers to engagement. Some examples include encouraging families to join the PTA or arranging virtual family-teacher meetings for families with transportation issues.

Identifying the Types of Parents Within Your School





Simple Strategies

LeaderinMe®

Ladder of Parent Engagement



LEADING

These are parents who work to support other children in the school, as well as their own child. They sit on committees and lead school efforts for the greater good.

FULLY ENGAGED

These are parents who understand they play a significant role as a member of the Learning Team. They recognize the professional expertise of the teacher and collaborate effectively to support their child's growth.

PRESENT

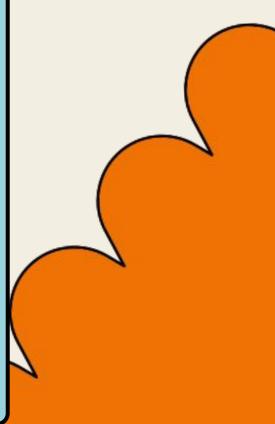
These are parents who attend most events, conferences and meetings, and communicate with the teacher. They are willing, but do not fully understand what they can do to optimize their child's growth.

EMERGING

These are parents who show up occasionally. They may not have the skills or comfort level to become more involved.

NOT ENGAGED

These are parents who are not known by the teacher. Teachers can only make assumptions about why they are not involved.



Inclusive Family Engagement

What does this mean?

Inclusive Family Engagement



We have an opportunity and a responsibility to ensure that all of our invitations and interactions with families are equitable, inclusive, and honor diverse identities and cultures. Try these strategies for inclusive family engagement.

Start with the paradigm that educators and families partner to develop the whole person.

Share influence by <u>inviting</u> <u>parents</u> into decisions that affect children and families in the classroom. For example, partner with caregivers in determining next steps after a challenging behavior incident.

Raise self-awareness.

Exploration of identity, biases, and paradigms can help us understand how we perceive families within the context of our classrooms and schools. Develop consistent two-way communication systems that welcome diverse voices.

Ask for feedback
through surveys or
Family-Partnership
Round Tables and
demonstrate how that
feedback is put into action.

Communicate with families based on their first-language preference.

Limited English proficiency is one of the greatest barriers to school engagement.

Practice relevant teaching strategies with families.

Consider the social and cultural norms of each family in classroom communication and during classroom events like Back to School Night or family workshops.

Redefine traditional engagement criteria.

When planning inclusive family-engagement opportunities, pay special attention to access, first language, work schedules, and family composition. Consider virtual modalities or alternate participation opportunities.

Build strong relationships with families through frequent, positive communication.

Positive phone calls home quickly build trust to support problem solving when challenges arise. Ask families how they might best contribute to the class community.

Ask families to share their strengths in a questionnaire and invite them to participate in ways that celebrate their genius and honor their story.

Connect families to resources.

Provide regular opportunities for families to learn student academic and social-emotional curriculum in order to best support their learners.

Continuously connect families to school and district workshops and resources.



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How Do We Engage Our Families?

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships set the bar for how schools and parent organizations work together to support student success.

- Standard 1: Welcome All Families
- Standard 2: Communicate
 Effectively
- Standard 3: Support StudentSuccess
- Standard 4: Speak Up for EveryChild
- Standard 5: Share Power
- Standard 6: Collaborate with
 Community



- Focus on Parent Talents & Strengths
- Celebrate & Recognize Family Partnerhips
- Family Events Involving Student Performances

(Music performances, Leadership Nights, etc...)

Food is a MUST if at all possible,

(If you feed them, they will come)

Parent/Child Events

Kickball Games, Paint Nights, BINGO for Books, etc....

What Are Some Things That Have Worked For Your School or PTA?

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