Engaging Hard to Reach Families Successfully

Idaho Prevention Conference      April 2016
Session Goal

The session goal is to provide participants with tools to successfully engage hard to reach families.
Introductions

Who are we?

Who am I?

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Family Engagement: Past, Present & Future

Where have we been in Family Engagement and more importantly, Where are we going in Family Engagement!

- NCLB Family Involvement guidance, 2002
- Every Student Succeeds Act, 2015
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): What is in it for parents?

The most important thing to know is that the major requirements of districts and schools to engage parents and families are the same in the new law, including:

- Develop with parents a written parent engagement policy
- Build a school’s capacity to engage families
- Involve families in the activities of Title 1 schools.
Parking Lot

What additional thoughts/questions do YOU have about Engaging Families?
Let's share out what we do know about families

Are there common traits?

Can we identify system barriers to engaging families?

Can we identify family fears that keep them from engaging?

Can we articulate what we want families to do once they engage?
NAFSCE, founded in September 2014, is the first membership association focused solely on advancing family, school, and community engagement. It was established to provide the long needed platform for advancing high impact practices, promoting evidence based policies, building capacity and leadership in the field, and upholding a core strategy for improving child development and student achievement.
What are we doing now?

Take a moment: think positive: don’t believe all the media stories:

Affirmation Activity:

Shout out and wonderings activity!

Think about, discuss, and share one positive action you have seen in your school or district!
Gallery Walk of current actions

Write down 1 family engagement action currently happening in your school.

Post in designated spot.

Take time to review participants posts!
Who are the hard to reach families?

What do we know about hard to reach families?

Who are the hard to reach families in our schools?

What is “at risk”

The term has no consistent meaning.

Brief: Research to Results; Child Trends, October 2006
What is “at risk”

It is critical to note that “at risk” is a concept that reflects a chance or a probability. It does not imply certainty.

Brief: Research to Results; Child Trends, October 2006
Align system needs to family needs

What are the system’s needs?

What are the family’s needs?

Who is most responsible for engaging families?
Ideas and Actions

Where do we begin?

What baby steps can we take?
Ideas and Actions

Where do we begin?

Experience 1

Experience 2
Ideas and Actions

Where do we begin?

Experience 3

Experience 4
Let’s think and plan!

What is next for my school?
Let’s think and plan!

Who can I convince to help?