

# Our Vision for Authentic Parent Engagement (Preschool – 12th Grade)

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- 4 Shared Leadership
- 5 Conflict Resolution
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**Parent Involvement is Priority 3 of the State's eight priority areas of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The statute requires LEAs to get input from parents, students, and other stakeholders in developing and adopting their LCAPs by doing, at minimum, the following:**

- The school board must consult with all stakeholders and must seek their input in developing a local control and accountability plan (EC52060 (g)).
- School Districts must promote parent participation in programs (EC 52060 (d) (3)).
- School Districts must inform the State how all stakeholders (e.g., parents and pupils, including parents of unduplicated pupils and unduplicated pupils identified in Education Code section 42238.01; community members; local bargaining units; LEA personnel; county child welfare agencies; county office of education foster youth services programs, court-appointed special advocates and other foster youth stakeholders; community organizations representing English learners; and other as appropriate) have been engaged and involved in developing, reviewing, and supporting the implementation of LCFF (EC 52066 (3), 52060, 52062, 52063).

#### **1. A Welcoming Environment**

- Provide staff development on how to welcome and engage stakeholders.
- Create a welcoming environment in the LEA and learn about the cultures and languages spoken in the community. When LEA staff greets visitors or answers telephones, they establish an important first impression. Teachers and administrators contribute to the positive environment when they promptly return calls and respond to requests for meetings. LEAs appear welcoming when they reach out to families and the community to celebrate successes as well as to resolve problems.
- Greet stakeholders promptly in their home language (when possible).
- Provide a clean, accessible and welcoming location for the meeting. Provide a calendar with the schedule of dates, times, and locations. Choose meeting venues in a variety of accessible places throughout the community as well as a selection of times to allow people with demanding work and family needs to attend.
- Provide transportation to school-based events, childcare and activities for children. Suggested activities can include art, STEM activities, physical education, writing, etc.
- Reach out to community leaders to encourage others in their community to become engaged in school activities.
- Build trusting relationships among stakeholders to create a strong foundation of shared responsibility for improving school performance.

- Inform the stakeholders of the value of their participation in the planning process.

## **2. Effective School-Family Communication**

- Provide frequent opportunities for two-way communication to encourage parent engagement. In addition to large-scale events such as back-to-school nights, offering coffee with principal and greeting parents during drop-off and pick-up show that the community is welcome at the school. E-mail is often an effective way for teachers to connect with parents. If delivering home visits, provide training for teachers and staff on how to conduct effective home visits.
- Provide translation for the major languages spoken in the community.
- Include the agenda as part of the invitation so that individuals feel comfortable with committing their time.
- Shared materials should be easy to understand and translated as needed.
- Communicate with stakeholders in numerous interactive ways, both formally and informally.
- Establish and implement a School–Family Compact.
- Build diverse cultural responsiveness.

## **3. Meaningful Resource for Families**

- Offer workshops to parents on how to support student success/ (e.g., Common Core, family literacy, quality early education, parenting, behavioral concerns, succeeding in school, college awareness and preparation, etc.).
- Clearly delineate the educational programs for English learners (e.g., English Learner Master Plan), low income students, and foster youth.
- Connect with community organizations to provide support services to families (e.g., after school activities, housing support, tutoring, food bank, clothing assistance, job training, counseling, cultural/recreational/social support, health services and supplemental services).

## **4. Shared Leadership**

- Establish a policy to ensure that stakeholders have an opportunity to contribute in all major decisions that affect children (school/district planning, principal selection, budget allocation, etc.).
- Train stakeholders on facilitation skills such as brainstorming, guided role-plays, and small- group activities that encourage everyone to speak.
- Provide opportunities for stakeholders to participate in open dialogue with the school improvement team about root causes of the achievement gap, and identify strategies to close the gap.
- Encourage stakeholders to work and learn as a team with the central focus on students.

- Provide updates to stakeholders on implementation of LCAP (what has worked well and what has not worked well).
- Provide appropriate training for all stakeholders.

#### **5. Conflict Resolution**

- Empower stakeholders to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
- Provide information to stakeholders on their rights under state and federal education laws.
- Provide conflict resolution workshops to help stakeholders learn effective ways to resolve conflicts at home and at school.
- Provide informational sessions to explain how expectations, standards and approaches to teaching change from elementary to middle and high school.
- Encourage open door policy to resolve conflicts in a timely manner.

#### **6. Adequate Financial Resources**

- Train stakeholders on LCFF budget basics and process.
- Allocate budget for stakeholder engagement (cost for parent center coordinator, translator, computer, etc.) and program cost (workshops, resources, etc.).
- Share budget information with stakeholders.