Community Engagement

Being deliberate in when, how, and why we connect with our community

- s. 36.9(5) A DEC <u>shall</u> (f) maintain communication links between the District Education Council and the Parent School Support Committees for the schools within the school district, and consult with the Parent School Support Committees with respect to matters relating to the duties of the Parent School Support Committees under this Act,

- S. 36.9(6) A DEC <u>may</u> (*b*) cooperate with persons and organizations to advance the quality of learning within the school district for which the District Education Council is established and to foster the spirit of lifelong learning within the community,

s.33 A Parent School Support Committee shall <u>advise the principal of the school</u> respecting the establishment, implementation and monitoring of the school improvement plan which may include strategies for:

- providing communication between the school and families and encouraging family involvement in the school,

- establishing partnerships with the community

- developing a school climate and conditions to improve the quality of learning and teaching,

- Establishing positive pupil climate within the school, and

- improving school property and facilitating use of the school by the community.

- Communicate with the District Education Council.

Using the paper at your table, write down one way your district or school is practicing community engagement.

Does the practice you have listed involve **informing** or **engaging**?

Public relations is not the same as community engagement.

Key Principles

1. **Pursue civic engagement, not public input**

2. **Engage people as citizen-owners, not customers**

3. **Discover voices, not simply demographics**

4. **Seek synergy, not consensus**

5. **Seek to educate, not merely inform**

Purpose

Why are you engaging with the community?

- What do you hope to learn?
- What do you need to decide?
- What do you want to accomplish?

How will undertaking this process support your District/School goals and ends policies?

How are you going to use what you learn?

Public Participation Spectrum

Purpose	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
Objective	Provide the public with information	Obtain public feedback	Work directly with the public throughout the process	Partner with the public in decision-making

Adapted from International Association for Public Participation

What is your promise to the public?

Purpose	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
Objective	Provide the public with information	Obtain public feedback	Work directly with the public throughout the process	Partner with the public in decision-making
Promise to the Public	We will keep you informed	Provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	Ensure public concerns & issues are reflected in the alternatives	Incorporate public advice & ideas into the decision.

Purpose	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
Objective	Provide the public with information about **English Language Proficiency Assessment results for high school.**	Obtain public feedback on **a school dress code policy.**	Work directly with the public throughout the process to **accomplish the amalgamation of 2 schools.**	Partner with the public in decision-making to **name a school auditorium.**
Promise to the Public	We will keep you informed	Provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	Ensure public concerns & issues are reflected in the alternatives	Incorporate public advice & recommendations into the decision.
Who should be involved?				

Resources

Purpose	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
Objective	Provide the public with information	Obtain public feedback	Work directly with the public throughout the process	Partner with the public in decision-making
Promise to the Public	We will keep you informed	Provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	Ensure public concerns & issues are reflected in the alternatives	Incorporate public advice & recommendations into the decision.
Example Tools:	Fact sheet, Websites, Open houses	Public comment, Focus groups, Surveys, Public meetings	Workshops Polling with group discussion on results	Citizen Advisory Committees Synergy-building Participatory decision-making

Formative:

- What's working? What's not?
- Is everybody here? Is everyone being heard?
- Is the facilitation effective?

Summative:

- Did you achieve your purpose and objectives?
- Did you keep your promise to the public?
- Did you strengthen your partnership with the community?

Why is family engagement important?

A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement, Anne T. Henderson and Karen L. Mapp

- **Finding 1: Involvement programs that link to learning improve student achievement.**

- **Finding 2: Speaking up for children protects and promotes their success.**

A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement, Anne T. Henderson and Karen L. Mapp

- **Finding 3: All families can contribute to their children's success.**

- **Finding 4: Community organizing gets results.**

Family-School Partnerships Policy
(Nat. PTA Association.)

- Standard 1— Welcoming All Families into the School Community

- Standard 2— Communicating Effectively

- Standard 3— Supporting Student Success

- Standard 4— Speaking Up for Every Child

- Standard 5— Sharing Power

- Standard 6— Collaborating with Community

Quality of Implementation

Indicators	Level 3 – Excelling	Level 2 – Progressing	Level 1 Emerging	Your Current Level
	Highly functioning level of development and implementation	Functioning level of development and implementation	Limited level of development and implementation	
Developing Personal Relationships	Family volunteers from different neighborhoods and backgrounds are trained to serve as mentors to help other families become more engaged in the school.	PSSC members volunteer to work in the school to provide information and support to families and students.	Families are greeted promptly by friendly front-office staff who give them correct information and help them connect with appropriate staff.	Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Not there yet |

Action Plan

Activities, Practices, Policies	Persons Responsible, including Lead(s)	Timeline	Resources and Funding	Evaluation
1. Hang welcome signs in all the languages spoken in the homes of students.	School staff member, parents/ family members	Start Aug. 1: Done by 1st day of school	Translators – bilingual or multi-lingual volunteers Signs - $___ from PSSC Budget – discount or donation from local print shop Place to hang signs	Feedback on end of year survey will demonstrate improved family and community perception of the school Increased presence of parents and family members in the school

For more information:

- Connect: A Guide to Ownership Linkage by Janice Moore

- Preserving the Public in Public Schools by Phil Boyle and Del Burns

- Harwood Institute for Public Innovation

- International Association for Public Participation

- IBM Center for The Business of Government

- Connecting with the Community, Illinois Association of School Boards.

- National Parent Teacher Association Family-School Partnerships Standards

- **Illinois Association of School Boards – NSBA**
  - Harwood Institute for Public Innovation
  - International Association for Public Participation

- **Connect: A Guide to Ownership Linkage,** Janice Moore

- **National Parent Teacher Association,**
  - National Standards for Family School Partnerships
  - Family-School Partnerships Implementation Guide.