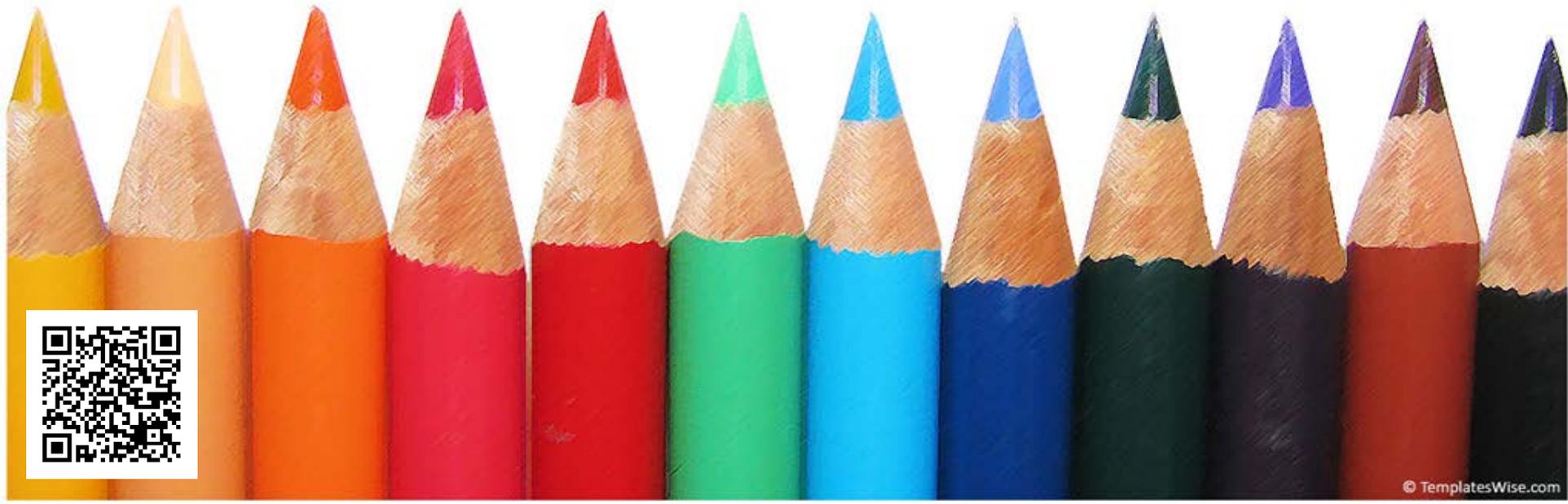


Understanding School, Family and Community Partnerships



- “We must recognize the importance of communities and families in supporting their children’s education, because a parent is a child’s first teacher. We must support families, communities, and schools working in partnership to deliver services and supports that address the full range of student needs.”

- President Barack Obama, A Blueprint for Reform (p.1)



Parent Engagement is a Resource



School Improvement Plans – Think Parent Engagement



School Improvement Plans – Think Parent Engagement

When writing School Improvement Plans
include Parents as resources



School Improvement Plans – Think Parent Engagement

When writing School Improvement Plans
include Parents as resources

- What strategic home activities would benefit SIP goals



School Improvement Plans – Think Parent Engagement

When writing School Improvement Plans
include Parents as resources

- How can parents enhance goals?
- What strategic home activities would benefit SIP goals



School Improvement Plans – Think Parent Engagement

When writing School Improvement Plans
include Parents as resources

- How can parents enhance goals?
- What Parent Professional Development is needed for enhancement?
- What strategic home activities would benefit SIP goals

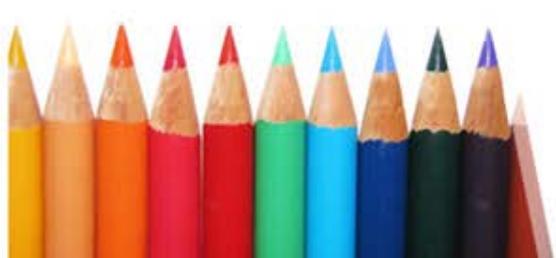


School Improvement Plans – Think Parent Engagement

Vision Events – NDE website:



- “Partnerships among schools, families, and community groups are not a luxury, they are a necessity”
(Henderson, Mapp, Johnson and Davies, 2007)



All students come with families

- Contact is made every day with every family through the hearts and minds of students
- Educating the whole child is possible through effectively leveraging the resources in the student's life.

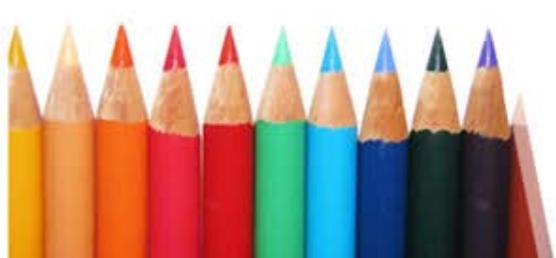
Learning a New Paradigm

- Where do educators learn about parent engagement?
- The familiar may become a comfortable default position.
- Understanding is the basis upon which communication is built.
- Families need intentional outreach and programs designed to enhance their engagement every year.



Moving beyond the school house

- Partnerships that extend into the community by working with local businesses, community agencies, and institutions are most effective at enhancing student's academic achievement and future opportunities.
- It takes vibrant and effective partnerships to realize our goal of Every Student, Every Day, a Success.



Culturally and Linguistically diverse populations

- Family and Community engagement is critical for all students, but the need is exponentially increased in schools serving culturally and linguistically diverse populations.
- When communication is successful parents respond positively to efforts at cooperation and collaboration between the teacher and the home and feel better equipped to help their students.
- Creative outreach may be needed to effectively include all families.



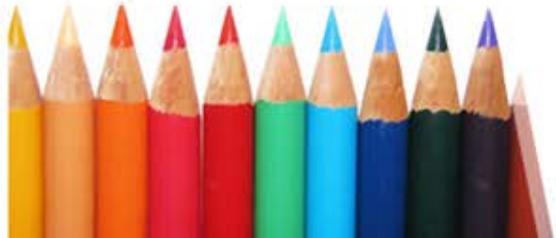
Making a New Box

- Any program schools implement to increase familial involvement should have a goal to increase student learning and achievement.
- All parents want their children to succeed at school.
- Individual parental understanding of school expectations varies markedly, as do the knowledge of and access to resources to help their children.



Home Works Project

- First Year of implementation – Home visit program in four elementary schools
- Acknowledges the importance of building equity in partnerships
- Voluntary involvement by schools and teachers
- Targeted immigrant new to the U.S. (less than 3 years) students
- Two home visits – Academic and Relational goals written with the family



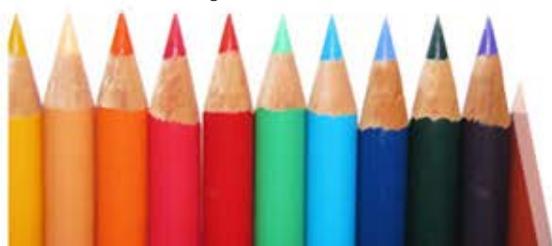
Home Works Project cont.

- Funds to purchase literacy resources
- House warming gift at first visit
- Training for teachers and interpreters
- De-briefing sessions and time for sharing
- Over-whelming positive responses from families, teachers, and students.



In Conclusion

- While educators are positive about developing family partnerships few schools actively support a culture of partnership and engagement.
- As our families and communities change, so too must educators interactions with them change.
- Teachers who actively seek to develop parental involvement with their students schoolwork at home report increased levels of student achievement despite the educational level of the parents.



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