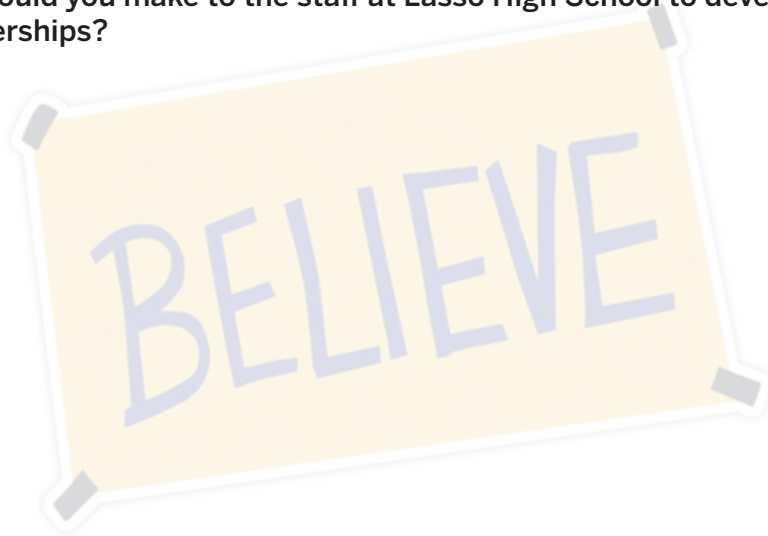


Read the scenarios below and determine what next steps you would take to improve family-school partnerships. When deciding on the most effective course of action, consider how trust, sense of purpose, effective communication, mutually beneficial actions, and assessment of progress impact each situation.

At Lasso High School, the staff share that there are many and varied opportunities for family-school partnerships, including fundraisers, conferences, committee meetings, and cocurricular activities. School leadership is frustrated by the sporadic participation of families. What suggestions would you make to the staff at Lasso High School to develop meaningful family-school partnerships?



Mahomes Middle School serves a diverse population. Families are often asked to provide feedback about the school culture and initiatives. However, both survey return rates and focus group attendance are extremely low. The principal has her “go to” families that she relies on to comply with district and state mandates about family involvement. While this helps ensure minimal compliance, most families feel little connection to the school’s mission and goals. How would you increase family-school partnerships and connectedness at this middle school?



Family-School Partnership Scenarios

Meadowlark School District recently had a contentious school board meeting. Many people in attendance disagreed with a policy decision. It appeared that only families who disagreed with the policy were in attendance to voice their concerns. It was apparent that many families do not trust decisions made by school leadership or teachers. How can Meadowlark effectively work with the “loud minority”? How can the district build trust with families who do not have confidence in the intentions or experience of its educators?



After the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) endorsed the six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships (NSFSP) to promote family involvement throughout KS schools, the Sunflower Elementary School created its own family involvement policy. They recently identified that they are struggling with two of the key standards: “sharing power” and “collaborating with the community”, and they are looking to update their policy and practices. What is the status of your school’s policy with regard to family-school partnerships? How do school staff and families actively engage in executing this policy?

