

Fostering Family-School Partnerships

Use the chart below to decide where your school currently stands on the continuum for each category. Then determine action steps to maintain or help your school move toward excelling.

	EMERGING	EVOLVING	EMBEDDING	EXCELLING
Schoolwide Beliefs about Family-School Partnerships	Family-school partnerships are important, but rarely an active part of school change initiatives.	Family-school partnerships are valued in school improvement efforts. Family input is seen as necessary.	Families are collaborators who can help solve ongoing school challenges.	Families are allies in creating and supporting positive changes that support ALL students' potential.
Opportunities for Family-School Partnerships	• Committees • Individual meetings with teacher • School informational meetings • Parent conferences	• Formal surveys • Focus groups • Open door policy by school leaders and teachers	• Invitation to participate in meetings that impact schoolwide decisions • Family input informs actions	• Participation in decision making process • Families take responsibility for their contributions throughout implementation
Family-School Relationships	Families tend to trust individual teachers but have reservations about the school's broader mission.	Teachers, school leaders, and families work toward developing mutual trust and respect.	Teachers and school leaders actively learn from the diverse perspectives and experiences of families. Trust and respect exist between families and school.	Teachers, school leaders, and families develop true partnerships that support dynamic teaching and learning environments.
Collaborative Culture	Families attend pertinent meetings by invitation.	Teachers and school leaders invite families to partner on a variety of school projects.	School and families work together for a common purpose.	Families feel confident partnering with teachers and administrators on initiatives they originate.