

Classroom Level Strategies

- ❖ Ensure all parents know *how* (email, phone, in person) and *when* they can talk with you.
- ❖ During meetings, provide ample time for parents to talk.
- ❖ To avoid misunderstandings, ask parents for examples when they share their ideas.
- ❖ Check your biases: What am I assuming about this parent?
- ❖ If you ask for parental input, either use it or explain why you didn't.
- ❖ Clearly explain your expectations for parents and students.
- ❖ Send regular updates to parents about the learning in your class.
- ❖ Develop homework assignments that involve students interacting with a parent.
- ❖ Know the skills and experiences of your parents to better utilize their talents at school.
- ❖ Arrange parent nights where students conduct demonstrations and engage parents.
- ❖ Create a comfortable environment when working with parents (e.g., seats, water, translator).
- ❖ Have a plan to communicate with ELL and low-literacy parents.
- ❖ Take advantage of high parent turnout at events such as sports to interact with parents.
- ❖ Use parent surveys to gather parent feedback.
- ❖ Understand the difference between equality and equity when working with parents.
- ❖ Additional action: _____
- ❖ Additional action: _____

Schoolwide Strategies

- ❖ Develop a plan to foster parent voice and engagement. It does not just magically happen!
- ❖ Establish a procedure for personally welcoming parents as they enter your school.
- ❖ Take attendance at parent events. Are the voices of any group(s) of parents missing?
- ❖ Provide maps or student guides to help parents find their way around the school.
- ❖ Offer ongoing learning sessions for parents about how to use online school portals.
- ❖ Provide parents with the results from parent surveys and act together based on the feedback.
- ❖ Involve parents early in the decision making process, particularly with controversial decisions.
- ❖ Ensure that partnership meetings involve working *together* so that everyone has a voice.
- ❖ Work with parents to develop a parental rights and responsibilities agreement.
- ❖ Ask prospective teachers about their philosophy and plans related to parent voice.
- ❖ Regularly conduct focus groups with parents.
- ❖ Believe that all parents care about their kids and want to work with the school.
- ❖ Additional action: _____
- ❖ Additional action: _____