

Counselors **SPEAK:
Connecting
Carefully, Candidly
and Courageously**

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OKLAHOMA
Education



OSDE Student Support Panel



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OSDE Student Support Panel - 2



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Why Are We Here?

To provide Oklahoma Counselors a forum to:

- **S**hare thoughts and concerns in a safe space
- **P**rocess possible causes and solutions
- **E**ducate, equip, and empower one another
- **A**ct, plan and implement
- **K**eep the conversation going

What's the Conversation?

How can we best support families and
build engagement
...during the return to school?
...in the virtual space?
...during out-of-school time?

Process, not an event...

Family engagement is a process, not an event. Many validate the success of family engagement efforts by measuring whether or not increased participation in school events occurred. (Remember, events usually attract the already engaged). We know that to truly impact learning with families, there is in place a process that moves the organization down a continuum toward improved learning through family engagement.

- Dr. Steven Constantino

Values, Beliefs and Culture

- What does our organization value?
- What are the core beliefs of our organization?
- Does our organizational culture reflect our values and beliefs?

What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement is the shared responsibility among families, schools, and communities to build relationships that support a child's learning and growth from birth through college and career.

- **Family** - a group of persons dedicated to the well-being of a child(ren) and may include parents, grandparents extended family members, caregiver, or any responsible individual.
- **School** - a group of persons inclusive of all staff within a school and/or district.
- **Relationship** - the meaningful, equitable, and culturally responsive interactions among families, educators, and community partners that provide opportunities to listen to, work with, and learn from each other as full and equal partners.

Pathways for Family Engagement

- **Strengthen Relationships**
- **Build Capacity**
- **Focus on Learning**
- **Connect Communities**

Strengthen Relationships

- Establish more effective personalized, two-way communication between schools and families that builds mutual trust and respect, and provides families an authentic sense of engagement in their children's learning. Relationships should be individualized and inclusive of all families.

Build Capacity

- Expand the awareness, skills, abilities, and confidence of families, schools, and communities to effectively support student learning at school, at home, and in the community. When everyone's base of skills grows, it makes a collective impact that enables everyone to understand “the why” and the importance of joint decision-making.

Focus On Learning

- Connect to all families' home lives, interests, and identities to provide meaningful experiences that support student learning outcomes. All families need an accurate picture of their children's learning.

Create Community

- Create connections among families, schools, tribal nations, and the greater community that are compassionate, culturally sensitive, and designed to meet the needs of the whole child in support of lifelong learning. Meaningful connections reflect diversity within the community.

Family Engagement

...during the return to school?

...in the virtual space?

...during out-of-school time?

It's not about doing more...

Family engagement is not about doing more, but doing what we already do, differently. Family engagement is not an add-on or a “nice to have” or a “if we have time.” Instead of adding more to teacher’s already overfilled plates, let’s work on changing what we already do to incorporate families into an active role in learning. Not more, just different.

- Dr. Steven Constantino