

Parent Engagement Activities

Windsor Public Schools have been doing parent-teacher home visits for four years. They have done over 100 visits per year, reaching over 300 family members (excluding students). 98% of teachers who visit families report that they are more knowledgeable about families' culture and their hopes and dreams for children's education; 78% said it changed their perceptions of the families and students. 85% of teachers are finding ways to incorporate their new understandings into their instruction. Home visits have continued online during the pandemic.

Stamford Public Schools were hearing from families that they were experiencing gaps in technology support, a lack of consistent communication and lack of awareness of resources and support. The district created a Train the Trainer that leverages parent/family/community leaders to provide technology support to families. Stamford teachers are the trainers. It is open to any member of the community and offered in multiple languages. The district has learned that partnering with the community unlocks new and creative ways to connect with families.

Parent Academies

Funds can create Parent Academies that empower parents to be partners with schools to support student success. Parents become leaders, life-long learners and advocates for student learning and school improvement. Parent Academies collaborate with community partners to offer a year-round range of services for families at sites throughout the community and online. In addition, school staff participate, thus building their capacity to partner with families.

Parent-Teacher Home Visits Project

The program brings together teachers and families within the home. Teachers are trained and compensated for visits outside of the school day. These paired visits are not targeted for a specific demographic of students; rather they seek to build the relationships between schools and families. This research-based model has proven effective including a 24% reduction in school absences.

Training for Educators in High-Impact Family Engagement to – On the Ground and Online

Funds can provide training for teachers, administrators and other school staff to use evidence-based strategies to partner with families in support of children's education and well-being. Training supports schools to identify and address barriers to family engagement and facilitate a mindset shift within schools to fully embrace families as equal partners. When school staff practice high-impact strategies for collaborating with families as full and equal partners, families have the information and tools they need to support their children's learning and academic achievement among children increases.