

Starting Points Family-School-Community Partnerships Inventory

The National Standards offer a framework for how families, schools, and communities can work together to support student success. This inventory can be used in a number of ways to help plan, implement, and evaluate partnership initiatives. Suggested uses of this inventory include, but are not limited to:

- Assessing current family engagement practices at the school.
- Developing ideas for engagement practices and activities.
- Informing the development of a Unified Improvement Plan.
- Monitoring progress in reaching school improvement goals.
- Designing research and evaluation studies and instruments.

Directions: Complete the Inventory to identify whether your site is excelling, progressing, or emerging for each indicator. Then prioritize an area of improvement and identify how you will evaluate that practice.

Emerging: Limited level of development and implementation

Progressing: Functioning level of development and implementation

Excelling: Highly functioning level of development and implementation

Standard 1—Welcoming All Families into the School Community: Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to the school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Indicators	Excelling	Progressing	Emerging
We develop personal relationships with every family.			
We create a friendly-friendly atmosphere.			
We provide opportunities for families to volunteer in the school, for the school, and as audience members.			
We respect every family.			
We remove economic obstacles for families to participate in events.			
We ensure that programs (i.e. events, volunteer opportunities, and meetings) are accessible for every family to participate.			

One area of improvement for Standard 1 we will focus on during this school year is to: _____

We will evaluate this practice by: _____

Adapted from: *PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: An Implementation Guide* (2009)

Standard 2—Communicating Effectively: Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

Indicators	Excelling	Progressing	Emerging
We use multiple forms of communication paths to communicate with every family.			
We encourage two-way channels of communication.			
We ensure that families have access to the principal, teachers, and other school or district staff.			
We provide information on current educational and behavioral issues (i.e. new curriculum or policy changes)			
We survey families to identify issues and concerns and have mechanisms in place to receive a high return rate.			
We facilitate connections between families.			

One area of improvement for Standard 2 we will focus on during this school year is to: _____

We will evaluate this practice by: _____

Standard 3—Supporting Student Success: Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Indicators	Excelling	Progressing	Emerging
We ensure that families and teachers communicate about student progress.			
We link student work to academic standards and provide families with information about how to support these standards at home.			
We use standardized test results to increase achievement and include family feedback in achievement discussions.			
We share school progress with every family.			
We engage families in classroom learning.			
We regularly conduct family learning events and provide information about those events to families who were unable to attend.			
We promote after-school learning opportunities.			

One area of improvement for Standard 3 we will focus on during this school year is to: _____

We will evaluate this practice by: _____

Standard 4—Speaking Up for Every Child: Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Indicators	Excelling	Progressing	Emerging
We help families understand how the school and district operates.			
We help families understand their rights and responsibilities under federal and state laws.			
We develop and share resources for families to help them navigate the educational system.			
We have policies and procedures in place to help resolve problems and conflicts involving families quickly.			
We help families develop capacity to be effective advocates for their children and the whole student population.			
We include families in discussions about planning for the future of the school.			
We have implement policies and procedures that encourage smooth transitions between and within schools.			
We engage families in civic advocacy (i.e. partnering with other educational advocates) for student achievement.			

One area of improvement for Standard 4 we will focus on during this school year is to: _____

We will evaluate this practice by: _____

Standard 5—Sharing Power: Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Indicators	Excelling	Progressing	Emerging
We encourage families have a voice in all decisions that affect children.			
We address equity issues.			
We develop family leadership, including families from diverse backgrounds and represent the student population.			
We connect families to local officials.			
We encourage and develop effective family engagement organizations that represent all families.			

One area of improvement for Standard 5 we will focus on during this school year is to: _____

We will evaluate this practice by: _____

Standard 6—Collaborating with the Community: Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Indicators	Excelling	Progressing	Emerging
We link families to community resources.			
We organize support from community partners.			
We have turned the school into a hub of community life.			
We partner with community groups to strengthen families and support student success.			
We conduct activities that give back to the community.			

One area of improvement for Standard 6 we will focus on during this school year is to: _____

We will evaluate this practice by: _____

Other thoughts and notes: