Recommended Roles and Responsibilities for Supporting School, Family and Community Partnerships

Family and Community

1. Policy

Assist districts and schools in development of policies and strategies.

Essential Practices

- Participate in the development and review of district and school policies and implementation strategies.
- Assist in the development of family-friendly methods of communicating policies.
- Ensure that policies reflect the diversity of families in the district.
- Encourage family and community attendance at school board meetings as a means of understanding district practices and policy.
- Ensure that policies incorporate State Board recommendations.
- Ensure that policies outline expectations and commitments for school-family-community partnerships.

2. Staffing

Work with district and school coordinators to build partnerships for supporting all students.

Essential Practices

- Participate in district family and civic engagement team and school teams for planning school, family and community partnership strategies.
- Strongly encourage cultural competency that relates to district diversity.
- Encourage community review of district employment needs.
- Encourage community applicants for district employment opportunities.
- Encourage district and schools to establish a coordinator for family engagement issues.
- Assist district and school team coordinator in implementing school, family and community partnership strategies.
- Assist district and school team coordinator in communicating information to all families and community organizations.

3. Funding

Assist school and district leaders in ensuring adequate resources for supporting school, family and community partnerships that support all learners.

Essential Practices

- Advocate for school and district budgets that adequately support district goals and building strategies for building and sustaining school, family and community partnerships.
- Advocate for adequate staffing to support district goals and school strategies for building and sustaining partnerships.
- Encourage families with grant-writing skills to volunteer to write grants.
- Encourage community business investment/contributions
- Advocate for the appropriate use of funds allocated for family engagement/parent involvement.
- Advocate for the appropriate use of funds allocated for professional development to support family engagement/parent involvement.

4. Educator Competency

Access training opportunities for parents and community members. Advocate for professional development in building partnerships for teachers and staff.

Essential Practices

- Advocate for professional development in building partnerships for teachers and staff.
- Request training and other sources of information to provide parents and community members with the information they need to participate fully in school improvement efforts and in school leadership.
- Encourage teachers and families of their students to participate in district events.
- Encourage district businesses to offer training in their areas of expertise.
- Reward and recognize staff professional advancement through district communication.
- Participate and encourage participation in available school leadership trainings.

5. Research and Evaluation

Assist districts and schools in developing, implementing and responding to evaluations.

Essential Practices

- Develop family-friendly evaluation tools to gather parent and community feedback on school issues.
- Use data to inform decisions about strategies for school, family and community partnerships and other school issues.
- Assist district in disseminating research findings on results of effective family-school-community partnerships.

6. Tools and Products

Assist schools and districts in the developing family-friendly partnership tools and products.

Essential Practices

- Assist districts and schools in the development of family-friendly communication tools.
- Attend and advocate for involvement in parent organization meetings.
- Request and attend Parent Academies.
- Attend parent leadership trainings.

7. Community Connections and Relationships

Build relationships between families, staff and community members.

Essential Practices

- Develop positive and proactive relationships with teachers, staff, parents and administrators
- Assist schools in developing relationship-building strategies for reaching families and community members.
- Collaborate with districts and schools in identifying the needs of families.
- Collaborate with districts and schools in identifying specific barriers related to families within the district which inhibit effective family engagement.
- Work with the district and schools to develop an action plan which removes barriers.