Using Parent and Family Engagement as a Dropout Prevention Strategy

Jean Strait and Robert Rivera
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Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching
CEUT

**Our Mission**

Provide educational interventions and resources that develop the cultural competencies for under-prepared students to achieve success

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**Our Vision**

Be the national expert in critical urban education programs, practices and strategies
Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching (CEUT)

Preparing & Recruiting Diverse Educators for Urban Classrooms

Providing Educational Interventions for K-12 Students

Developing Cultural Competencies

Creating Cultural & Community Intersections

Connecting Research to Learning communities

Solutions to the Dropout Crisis

National Dropout Prevention Center/Network at Clemson University
Educational Intervention

Parent Engagement
Parent/Family Engagement

Parents/families working together to enhance and improve the development of children and adolescents.

(Epstein, 2001)
Student Success

Grades
Attendance
Attitudes
Expectations
Homework Completion
State Test Results
Ten Dimensions of Culture

• Sense of Self and Space
• Communication and Language
• Dress and Appearance
• Food and Eating Habits
• Time and Time Consciousness
• Relationships
• Values and Norms
• Beliefs and Attitudes
• Mental Processes and Learning
• Work Habits and Practices
Current Models of Engagement
Models of Engagement

Epstein’s Current Framework of Involvement (2011)

- Parenting
- Communicating
- Volunteering
- Learning at Home
- Decision Making
- Collaborating with Community
Models of Engagement

CEUT CONTINUUM OF PARENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

INFLUENCES

100%
Parental Perceptors of Engagement

85%
Organizational Context vs. Relational

75%
Negotiating Space & Activity Social Capital (Power Differentials)

50%
Parental Presence

25%

SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUALITY WORK

Parent & Community Engagement

Relational Involvement

Community Outreach Strategies

Parent Involvement

Limited Involvement/Traditional Methods

Solutions
to the Dropout Crisis

NATIONAL DROP OUT PREVENTION CENTER/NETWORK AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
Examples of Ways School Staff Can Encourage Support
Three Main Steps…

1. Make a positive connection
2. Provide opportunities for engaging parents and families
3. Sustain engagement by addressing challenges that families in your school/district face
Eight Proven Strategies

1. Give school staff members the ability to connect with families

2. Survey parents about their needs and how they would like to be involved in the schools

3. Provide parenting support
4. Communicate with parents

5. Provide volunteer opportunities

6. Support learning at home

7. Encourage parents to be part of the decision making at school

8. Collaborate with the community
Solutions for Six Common Challenges to Sustaining Parent/Family Engagement
1. Parents are unable to attend meetings or activities due to schedule conflicts

- Schedule meetings and activities to match varying parent schedules
- Provide incentives to encourage parents to attend at-school meetings and events
- Provide alternative ways for parents to access information and communicate with school staff
2. Parents cannot attend meetings due to lack of transportation

- Provide transportation
- Hold events off site or online
3. Parents are uncomfortable at meetings

- Provide opportunities for parents to get to know about the school and staff in nonthreatening ways

- Implement programs that are culturally sensitive
4. Parents do not understand information and communications at school

- Provide translation services
- Reduce barriers to understanding information
  - Vocabulary and jargon
5. School staff are not experienced or trained to work with parents and families and have trouble sustaining relationships

• Provide Professional Development
6. There is difficulty sustaining support for parent engagement, either administratively or financially

- Share data and educate administrators
- Empower parents
- Find opportunities for financial support
For More Information....

Dr. Jean Strait  jstrait02@hamline.edu
Robert Rivera  rrivera01@hamline.edu

http://www.hamline.edu/education/

http://urbanteachingblog.wordpress.com/about/