

Using Parent and Family Engagement as a Dropout Prevention Strategy

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February 27, 2013



Solutions
to the Dropout Crisis

Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching CEUT

Our Mission

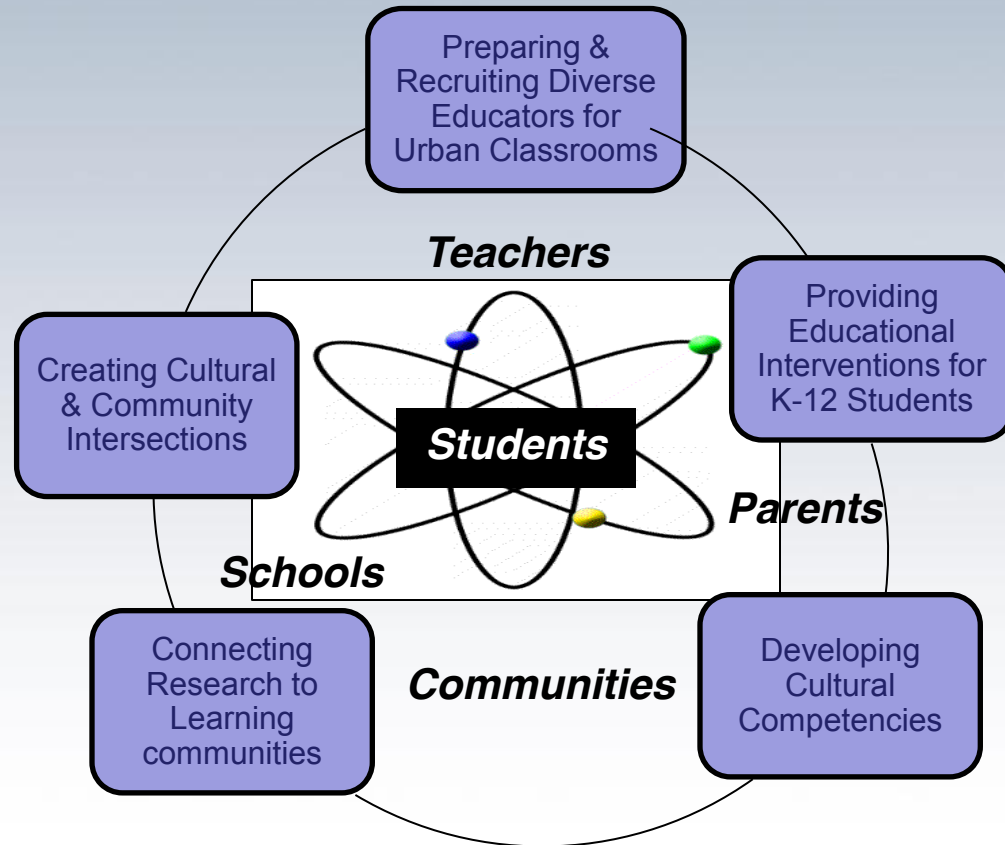
Provide educational interventions and resources that develop the cultural competencies for under-prepared students to achieve success

Our Vision

Be the national expert in critical urban education programs, practices and strategies



Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching (CEUT)



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

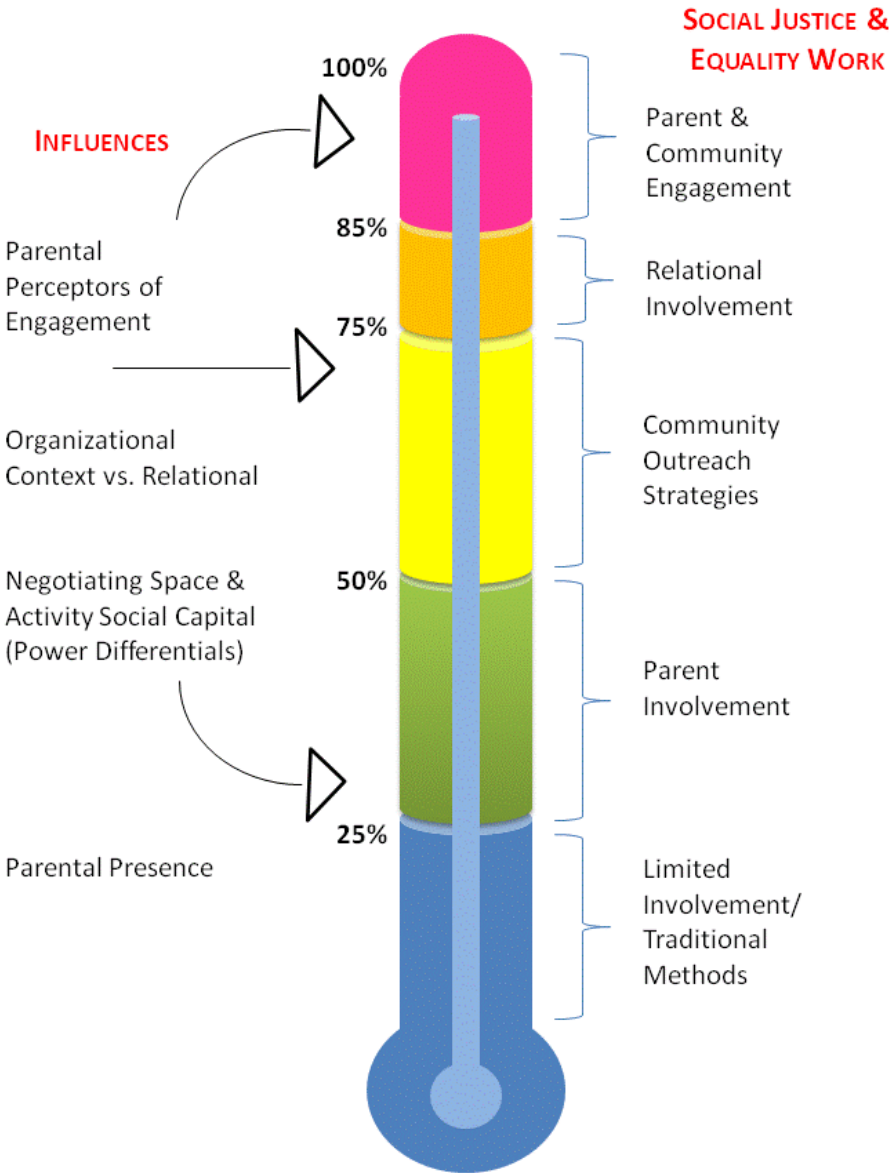
Epstein's Current Framework of Involvement (2011)

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



Models of Engagement

CEUT CONTINUUM OF PARENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



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



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