Parent Engagement in Action:
A guide and toolkit for school improvement

developed with support from the Australian government SSNP for Low SES School Communities, and Synergistiq
Overview

1. Purpose and design
2. The Guide
3. The Toolkit
4. Uses and usefulness
Purpose

• Support schools to **understand, reflect on, plan for, and improve** parent engagement

• Two key questions
  • *How well are we going?*
  • *How can we get even better?*
Design

• Co-constructed with schools

• Informed by
  • research literature
  • practice wisdom of partner schools
  • experiences and applied learning of CEM Family School Partnership Team (Student Wellbeing Unit)
Booklet 1: The Guide
4 Key Areas

Foster PE
- *through relationships*
- *linked to learning*

Strengthen PE through
- *strong leadership*
- *ongoing reflection*
## Continuum of practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partnership</th>
<th>Strategic, embedded in school life, collaborative, shared responsibility.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engagement</td>
<td>Conversations, listening, empowering, evolving, can be parent-initiated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Involvement</td>
<td>Information sharing, explaining, preparing (structures and processes in place), school-initiated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Gathering knowledge, inviting contact, knowing the community, making a commitment</td>
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Booklet 2: The Toolkit

School Improvement Reports

Survey Tools

Dialogue Tools

Overall Tool

How well you are going.

How to get even better.
Key features

- Range of survey, dialogue and planning tools linked to 4 key areas, themes and practice continuum
- Maps school improvement data against the 4 key areas (currently only for Melbourne Catholic schools)
- Low-tech, adaptable
- Multiple points of entry
- Multiple uses
School Improvement Reports

2012 parent engagement – actual scores ...

LEGEND

1. School Mandate
2. Supportive Leadership
3. Role Clarity
4. Empowerment
5. Ownership
6. Professional Growth
7. School Improvement
8. Accountability
9. Parent Input
10. Supportive Leadership
11. Teamwork
12. Parent Partnerships
13. Quality Teaching
14. Parent Partnerships
15. Parent Input
16. Reporting
17. Translations
18. Accountability
19. Parent Partnerships
20. Homework
21. Assessment & Recognition
22. Learning Focus
23. School Improvement
24. Data not available

insight SRC

*Your school compared to the range for Victorian schools – aligned to the Parent Engagement Framework*
Teacher planning and professional learning

How do I set up ways to have regular conversations with parents?

How do I explain learning and make it visible?
Community consultation

When you come to the school, does it feel welcoming?

In what ways? Why / why not?
School review and improvement

How accessible and welcoming is our school?
Parent Engagement in Action

The most effective parent engagement strategies build respectful relationships with parents, and focus the relationship on the students’ learning. Where this works well, leadership and reflection are essential supports.

"We are not working for parents, we are working with parents."  "We focus everything we do with parents on the student's learning."  "We have limited time and resources, we need to be strategic."  "Ask and listen for the authentic parent voice...talking is action."
Narelle Struth
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