

Activity 3.3: Connecting with Families

(May be done individually or as a carousel activity for a group)

Time: 15-45 minutes

Purpose

To investigate how connecting with families can support student success, both at home and in the school community.

Materials Needed

- Questions (see attached)

For group activity:

- Chart Paper
- Markers (6 different colors if possible)

Roles

1. Facilitator: Explain the activity and lead the follow-up discussion.
2. Participants: Work in small groups to discuss the questions posed on each piece of chart paper and be prepared to share findings with the group.

Activity

1. Print off the questions on the attached form.

Groups:

Using 11 x 14-inch paper, draw a vertical line down the middle of the chart paper. Cut and tape/paste each question on a piece of chart paper with the first part of the question on the left side of the paper and the second part on the right side. (Please note that question #6 does not require a vertical line drawn down the page.) Then post the six pieces of chart paper in various “stations” around the room.

2. Ask participants to count off 1-6 to form smaller subgroups to work on the task.
3. Give each group a different color marker to record responses on the chart paper.
4. Allow 5 minutes for groups to spend at each chart and then rotate to the next chart at signal.
5. Ask one person from each group to remain standing at the last chart visited. This person will serve as the reporter during the debriefing.
6. Bring the group together to share and discuss what was written on the charts. Have each subgroup report out their information by sharing 2-3 ideas that were listed, allowing for questions and answers.

Activity Questions

1. What are meaningful ways that families can participate and become involved in the instructional activities within the school community to support student success? How does your school support this participation?
2. What structures need to be in place that encourage ongoing participation and engagement of families in student success? What structures are in place in your school community?
3. What are ways that schools can build the capacity of families and demonstrate a commitment to maximizing their engagement in the academic achievement of their students? How do you build trust with families in your school?
4. What obstacles may hinder families from participating in training and school events? How can these obstacles be eliminated?
5. In what ways can partnerships among students, families, educators, and community stakeholders support student achievement? How do you establish and maintain your partnerships?
6. What other questions should schools consider in obtaining greater family engagement in supporting student success?