

School Climate & Prevention Services



Community Engagement

Community Engagement is a powerful tool to bring about behavioral and environmental changes. Community Engagement is the process of working collaboratively with people affiliated with common goals and interests to address issues affecting those people's wellbeing. Notable characteristics of community engagement include: **1.** An inclusive and dialogue-driven process. **2.** Dedication to making meaningful and long-term improvements in schools. **3.** A commitment to creating a dynamic, two-way partnership. **4.** Sincere efforts to find common ground. **5.** An atmosphere of openness and mutual trust.

“Partnerships are not hard work, but heart work. Not more work, but the work. Not harder work, but smarter work to mobile all available resources that will contribute to student success”.

-Dr. Joyce Epstein

What It Isn't	What It Is
Authority	Responsibility
Top down	Bottom up
Public hearing	Community conversation
Seek to establish turf	Seeks common ground
Product	Process

Benefits of Community Engagement
Better social skills and behaviors for students
Higher student engagement & achievement
Broader and deeper involvement in issues
Garner financial, material, & human supports
Whole school improvement

Process/Framework

1. Purpose - frame the issue
2. Participation - identify and understand the constituent groups
3. Implementation and accountability - develop strategies and identify desired outcomes

Network

Coordinate

Cooperate

Collaborate

Integrate

Partnership Continuum

The partnership continuum describes the level of engagement you have with a partner. Some partnerships are short term or have small overlaps in goals, while others engage quite deeply. Use the continuum to consider where your partnerships fall and how you can continue to grow trust and engagement.

Context of COVID-19 Pandemic

Disruptions in families, schools and communities have created opportunities to put young people and their development at the center of our communities. Think families first, connections, capacity, continuity and quality, and coordinated information and data.

To learn more about building partnerships consider adding [School, Family, and Community Partnerships](#) by Epstein and Associates, and [Engage Every Family](#) by Dr. Constantino to your resource library.