

Equitable Family Engagement

Schools Fund Definition: Culturally responsive and asset-based activities that explicitly connect schools to families and families to schools in ways that explicitly support *student* learning and/or well-being.



Such family engagement activities should be simultaneously aimed at building the capacity of families to advocate for their students and building the capacity of BUSD educators and administrators to engage with families in a culturally responsive manner.

In BUSD, equitable family engagement includes a special focus on minority, immigrant, English learner, unhoused or refugee families.

Principles & Best Practices	Examples of Funded Projects
<p>Our Principles</p> <p>Equitable family engagement preserves student and family dignity. Activities are informed by the community, and are designed to build families' capacity to advocate for themselves. Capacity building of families exists along a continuum from 'recipient of services' to 'actively engaged in service' to 'leading service provision at a school' to 'district-level leadership and/or peer/community empowerment.'</p> <p>In terms of organizing structures, parent groups often start locally. Ideally, they develop over time to have an explicit relationship, including appropriate communication, coordination and feedback loops, with existing or new <i>district-wide</i> parent groups.</p> <p>While families are supported to better advocate for their students, BUSD must also build the capacity of educators and administrators to better receive the advocacy of their families, including skillful listening, relationship and trust building.</p> <p>Prospective applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and seek to leverage <i>existing</i> community resources and organizations first before building out new district-side resources <p>Proposals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicitly connect family engagement activities to student learning and well-being 	<p>LEARNING for Equity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Connections-focused Family Dinners for BEARS at John Muir <p>LEADING for Equity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latinx Family Engagement: Bilingual Listening Sessions, Parent Workshops & Leadership Team Development

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design activities with language access in mind • Include food and child care for any in-person meetings • Describe how project activities are informed by the needs of families and the community • Creatively compensate focal family members for their time and expertise, wherever possible 	
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Our definitions and best practices list were co-developed over the fall and winter of 2022 with the Schools Fund's Teaching & Learning Advisors, key BUSD equity leaders, the Schools Fund's Board, Schools Fund Community Advisors.