Pathways to School Readiness: Working Towards High Impact Strategies with the Family Engagement Self Assessment Tool (FE-SAT)
PSU P3 Team & Acknowledgements

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Session Overview

1. **Research** on Family Engagement

2. **Overview** of the Family Engagement Self-Assessment Tool (FE-SAT)

3. **Walk through** FE-SAT

4. **Work** on FE-SAT examples

5. **Learn** about High Impact P3 Strategies (HIPS)
What We Think/ Assume/ Hypothesize

Increased Family Engagement

Children Ready & Successful in School
What Research Tells Us

Increased Family Engagement ≠ Children Ready & Successful in School

UNLESS We Pay Attention to:

- Type of FE
- How Much
- Quality & Content
FE Research: What Doesn’t Improve Child Success?

*Almost No* Research Support for FE Strategies Targeting:

“Traditional” Family Engagement Strategies

- Attending Parent-Teacher conferences
- One-time events (Back to School Night, Curriculum Night, etc.)
- Volunteering
FE Research: What Can Help Support Child Success?

Some Research Support for FE Strategies Targeting:

Improving Parent-Teacher Communication:
- Regular learning-focused communication
- Student focused educational partnerships
- Positive teacher-parent relationships

Fostering Parent Leadership & Decision-Making
- Helps increase participation & buy-in
- May improve parent self-confidence & advocacy skills
Stronger Research Support for FE Strategies

Targeting:

Building Parent Knowledge & Supports for Learning at Home:
• Language – talking & reading w/to child
• Direct homework support
• Educationally & developmentally supportive experiences

Encouraging Parenting Practices that Support Educational Attainment & School Success
• Attendance
• High positive expectations
• Monitoring & supervision of out of school time
Effective FE Work Develops Over Time

Emerging
Building Positive Relationships

Progressing
Successful Learning-Focused Activities

Excelling
Strong Implementation of Evidence Based Practices

Portland State University
Elements of Successful Family Engagement

Engagement with Schools & Professionals

Engagement in Supporting Children’s Learning at Home

= Engaged in Partnerships Supporting Children’s Learning
FE-SAT Introduction

• **WHAT** is it?

• **WHO** should complete it?

• **WHEN** should you complete it?

• **HOW** does it work?

• **WHERE** can you get it?
The Family Engagement Self-Assessment Tool (FE-SAT)

What it IS:
- A tool for reviewing, assessing, & planning improvements for FE strategies
- A framework for helping to understand how communities can “move the dial” on family engagement

What it is NOT:
- A report card for evaluating how “good” or “bad” your FE work is
The Family Engagement Self-Assessment Tool (FE-SAT)

Who Should Complete it?

- Organizations or teams who are
  - Planning or currently implementing
  - Activities to improve aspects of Family Engagement
Key Outcomes for P3 Family Engagement Activities – 5 Areas of the FE-SAT

1. Increasing Equity & Family Voice to be responsive and inclusive of diverse family cultures, reflect family preferences and needs, & are guided by family input and voice

2. Strengthening Relationships between parents, teachers & children

3. Changing Knowledge, Beliefs, & Skills of parents, teachers, and/or children

4. Building Partnership-Oriented Communications

5. Increasing Parent Input, Decision-Making, and Advocacy
A Caveat

• Designed for assessing activities that directly involve families

• Not appropriate for activities focused solely on professionals (child care providers, teachers, etc.) such as professional development, training, or systems alignment work
HOLDING PLACE

• Examples of high impact FE work in Oregon—EDIT and/or update the following slides

• IF TIME?

• LP NOTE: perhaps SCHub will be able to provide insight into how they’re using – I can ask Cynthia on my call with her on Wednesday...
How Does it Work?

Step 1: Identify a Family Engagement strategy to work on

Step 2: Complete the FE-SAT Cover Sheet

• **Scope:** What is the physical/geographical scope?

• **Stage:** What stage of implementation are you addressing?

• **Primary Goals?** What is the focus of the FE Strategy you are working on?

1. **Equity & Family Voice – REQUIRED**
2. Relationship Building
3. Skills, Knowledge, Beliefs
4. Family-Provider Communication
5. Family Involvement in Decision Making
Completing Worksheets

Step 3: Work together to complete Worksheet #1 on Equity & Family Voice, describing and rating your work (or plan) in each area:

1. Representation
2. Content/Approach
3. Accessibility
4. Strengths-Based
5. Family-Driven
6. Translation/Interpretation

Step 4: Work together to complete Worksheets #2-5 as applicable to the goal(s) of your FE strategy.
Making Your Ratings

1. **Emerging** – Small changes towards goals, not evidence-based, “light touch” activities

2. **Progressing** – More intensive efforts, some elements of FE best practices are in place

3. **Excelling** – Strong implementation of best practices, use of evidence-based approaches, most likely to “move the dial” on child outcomes
Keep in Mind

• **Narrow** FE strategy (e.g., one program or workshop)

• Focus on **MAIN goal(s)** of the FE Strategy

• Think about how the strategy is **currently working**, not how it should work ideally

• Picking the best rating may be somewhat difficult – *do the best you can!*

• It is **NOT expected** (and unlikely) that any one FE strategy reaches “**excelling**” for every category
An Example

- Evidence-based program with structured curriculum and content
- Minimum of 3, 2-hour family workshops/year (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- Workshops build on each other; goal is that families attend 3 per year
- Children attend events, but typically spend workshop time separate from parents
- Typically held at the school, dinner provided
- Families receive kits with hands-on activities and materials
- Teachers provide time during the workshop for some (limited) practice/use of materials
As a Team or With a Partner

Work through Worksheet #1 for READY! for Kindergarten
(Or, choose something you are working on right now)

Remember to:

✓ Make notes
✓ Write down ideas & examples
✓ Focus on how you can improve
Share Out

✓ Lightbulbs or ideas generated?
✓ Questions or stumbling blocks?
High Impact P3 Strategies: HIPS Resource Guide for P3

Thank you Salem Keizer P3!
What’s the HIPS?
A Resource Guide for P3

• 3 working lists of P3 strategies and activities
• Based on review of research and practice literature
• Organized by **3 primary goals for P3:**
  1. Family Engagement
  2. School Readiness & Kindergarten Transition
  3. Child Kindergarten-Third Grade Outcomes and Skills
What’s in the HIPS?

1. Type of activity
   • Programs, strategies, resources

2. Level of evidence
   • Strong, moderate, preliminary, none

3. Estimated costs

4. Primary expected outcomes
   • Communication
   • Skills, abilities, beliefs
   • Relationship Building
   • Diversity/inclusion
   • Access to resources
Find the Tools on Our Website!

http://www.pdx.edu/ccf/

• FE-SAT:
  http://www.pdx.edu/ccf/sites/www.pdx.edu.ccf/files/FE-SAT%207-6-16_FINAL.pdf

• HIPS:
Family Engagement Strategies

1. Strong, Trusting Relationships

• Open the Door:
  • Review policies, schedules, and org. culture
  • Start “light” then go deeper—Fun events, driven by parent interests
  • Think small - classrooms, grades vs. schoolwide

• Convey Respect & Attention to Family Culture and Circumstance

• Support Professionals: Dedicated staff time, professional development, staff peer support for family engagement & relationship building

• Promising Model: Parent-Teacher Home Visits
2. Effective **Two-Way** Communication:

- **Regular & Frequent** – multiple times, multiple ways – aim for **weekly** communication

- **Multiple Levels**: Organization, Classroom, Child-Specific

- **Strengths based**: Communication about home and school **successes**, challenges, goals

- **Is it working?**: Get feedback from parents
Examples: Communication Strategies

• **Texting Apps**: Regular texts with class photos;
• **One-on-one**: Teacher home phone calls for “good news”
• **Home-School “logs”**: Notes back and forth
• **Classroom wide emails** on learning goals, activities, ways parents can help
• **Social Media**: School Facebook page
3. Build Skills for Parent Support at Home

- Provide evidence based parenting education & kindergarten transition classes
- Promote shared learning with parents, child care providers, teachers
- Support parent-child activities, opportunities for practicing skills
- Multi-session classes and workshops that build skills over time
- Address cultural barriers & adapt programming
- Address family stress, basic needs
Examples: Effective Parenting Strategies

• Variety of 0-5 parenting education programs (OPEC is a resource)
  • Kaleidescope Play and Learn groups for parents, child care providers, children
  • Growth Mindset shared trainings
  • Evidence based home visiting: EHS, Healthy Families, NFP, PAT
  • Kindergarten Transition: Kids in Transition (KITS); Ready for K!

• Build Partnerships with Early Learning Programs, Family Resource Providers (TANF, Housing, Food, etc.)