

A stylized, light brown illustration of a plant with several leaves and a cluster of small, round buds or flowers, positioned on the left side of the slide.

PARTNERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PURSUIT OF EQUITY: A LOOK AT SCHOOLS' ACTIONS

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Our Targets

Share effective models that develop partnerships between parents and schools

Reflect on our own experiences and how they impact our relationships in the school setting

Walk away with tools that can help facilitate discussions and learning about culture that promote student achievement



What's the Goal?

- Student achievement
- Bridging the cultural gap results in significant gains in student learning.
- Benefits:
 - Improved parent-child relations
 - Lower dropout rates
 - More schools funding
 - More effective community services

Parent and Family Engagement

- Participation vs. Involvement
- Instilled through ways other than traditional school-related ones
- Level of participation or involvement in programs and services and there are specific outcomes as a result
- How parents feel about and understand services and relationships

**IT IS *NOT*
ONE SIZE FITS ALL**

Cultural Values

- Independence
 - Open Communication
 - Exploration
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- Personalismo (relationships, not formal rules)
 - Educación (responsibility and morality)

History influences us individually and as a whole

“if you really want to make a friend, go to someone’s house and eat with him...the people who give you their food give you their heart.”

-Cesar Chavez



Cultural Responsiveness

- Valuing Diversity
- Having capacity for cultural self-assessment
- Being conscious of the dynamics inherent when cultures interact
- Embedding cultural diversity and responsiveness into all aspects of the school or classroom
- Implementing different interactions and behaviors in response to cultural diversity

Benefits

Parents

- Feel valued and respected
- Are more involved in children's learning and development
- Feel family practices and beliefs are understood and valued
- Feel comfortable visiting the school and talking with teachers
- Understand more about their children's experience at school
- Understand why early childhood and K-12 education is important
- Have increased confidence in their own parenting skills

Staff

- Understand more about their students' lives and utilize that information when planning and teaching
- Learn and use parent skills and expertise
- Can provide a more supportive environment for students
- Learn and use less "traditional" methods to communicate

Benefits for Students

- Feel more secure and confident at school
- Transition from one setting to another with more confidence
- Enjoy learning more when connected to home

District and School Structures

- Home visitor/home school connection
- Parent Education Center, Family University
 - Evening Classes
 - Child Care
 - Homework Support
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - Board Members/School Representatives
 - Annual Conference
- Welcome Center
 - Registration
 - Language Assessments



THANK YOU!!

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Works Cited

- Culture Counts: Engaging Black and Latino Parents of Young Children in Family Support Programs
- Classroom to Community and Back: Using Culturally Responsive, Standards-Based Teaching to Strengthen Family and Community Partnerships and Increase Student Achievement