



# 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



# Introductions

- Why do you have the name you have? What is the meaning of your name?

# 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

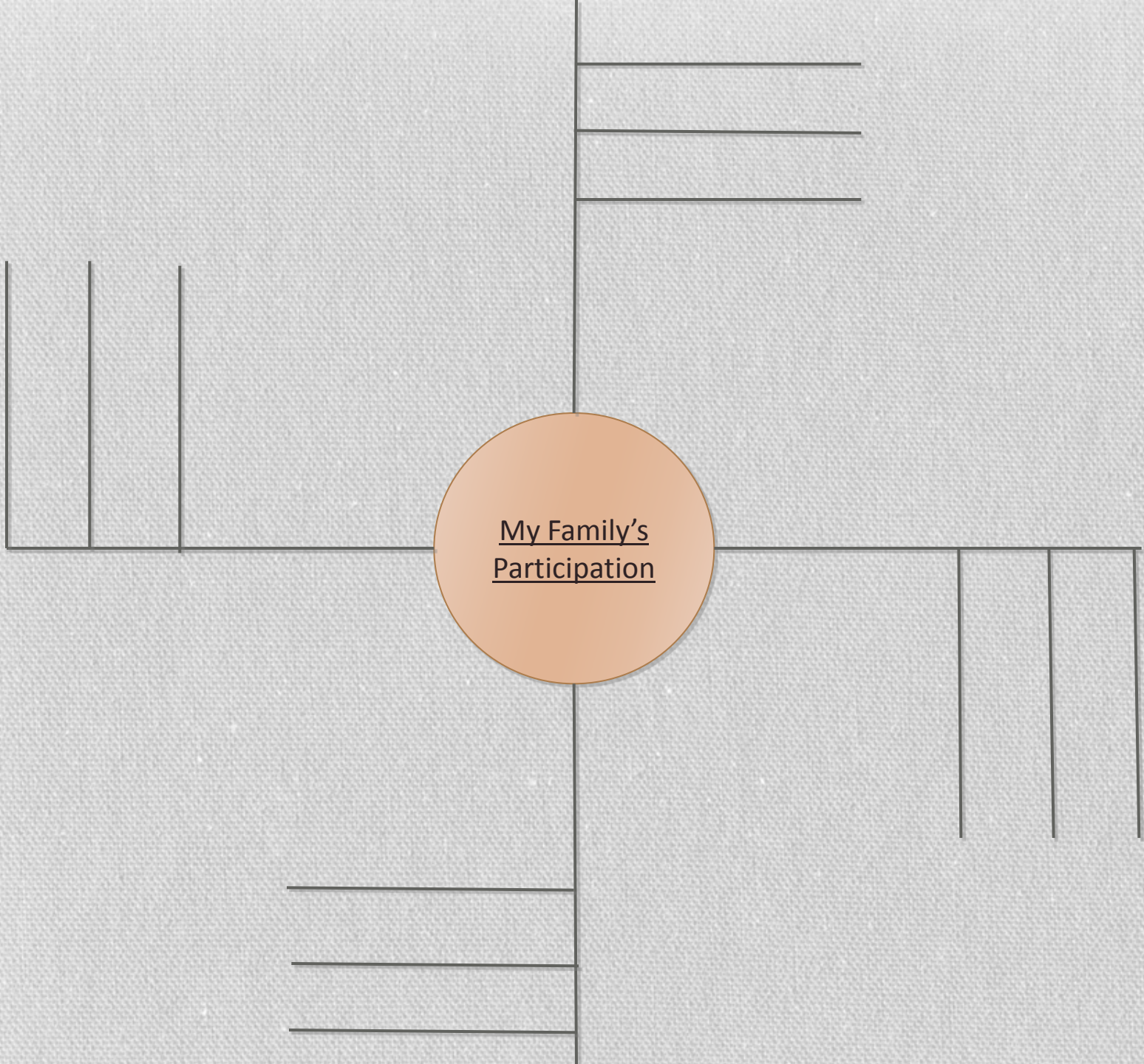
# Parent and Family Engagement

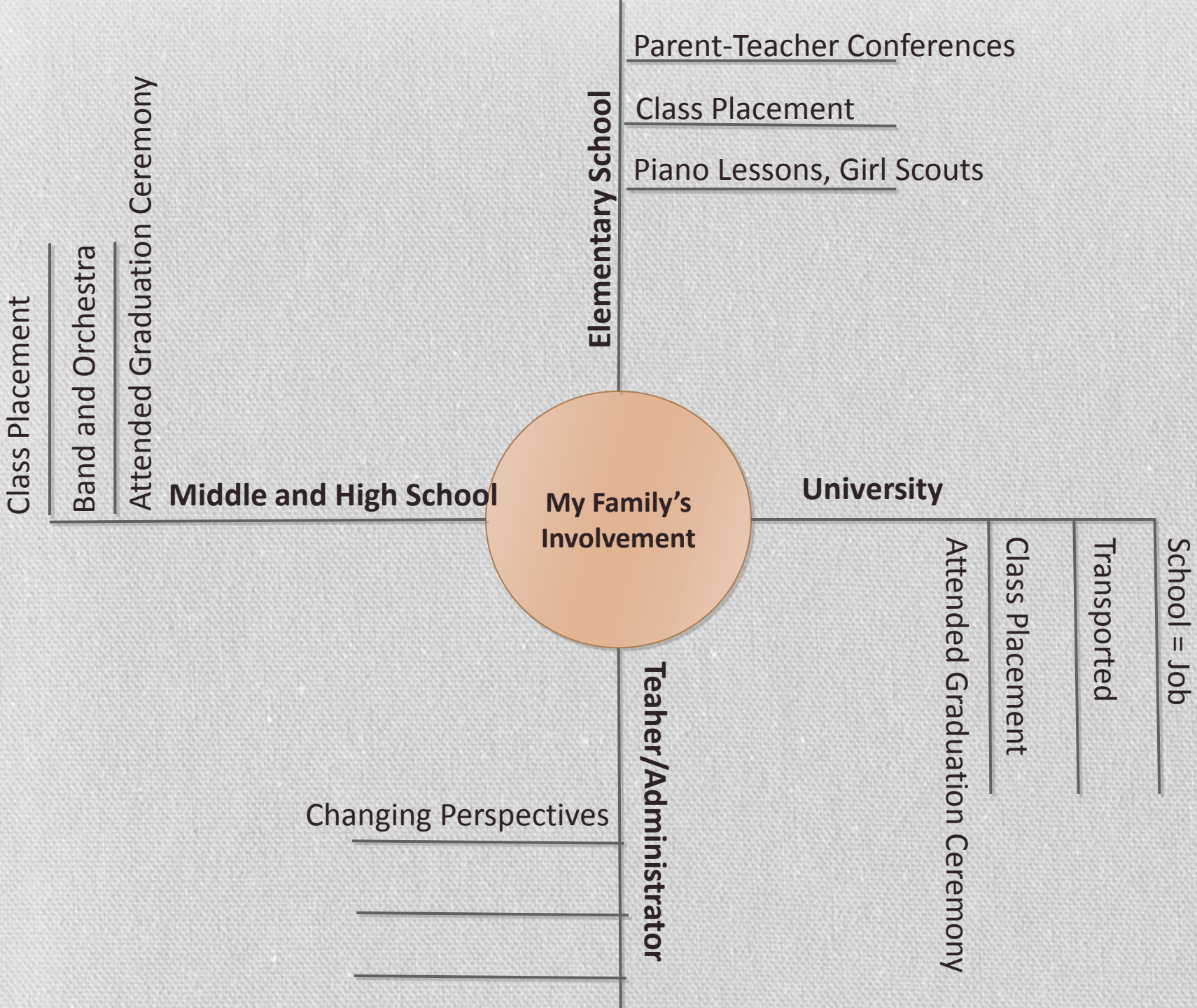
- Participation vs. Involvement
- Instilled through ways other than traditional school-related ones
- Level of participation or involvement in programs and services and there are specific outcomes as a result
- How parents feel about and understand services and relationships

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

## Why is family engagement important?

- Effects of family involvement on math outcomes = math knowledge and skills increase
- Involvement in school activities can predict literacy and math skills as well as teachers' report of academic progress
- Parent-initiated school involvement at key developmental transitions have a positive effect on academic outcomes







# Barriers

- Structural
- Cultural
- Attitudinal

## Cultural Capital

*Material resources, social networks, cultural beliefs*

Directs Actions

# Cultural Values

- Respeto
  - Obedience
  - Courtesy
  - Behavior – Social Appropriateness
  - Public Behavior\*

# Cultural Values

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

# Four Assurances from the Teacher

- He will respect and learn from families
- She will keep child's safety and well-being in mind at all times
- She will do everything she can to help the child become a responsible, caring and well-educated person
- He is a skillful educator

# Culturally Responsive Standards-Based Teaching

- What evidence have you seen in the classroom?
- Culturally relevant books are included in the classroom library
- Family and community members are invited to speak as guests
- Walls are covered with
  - pictures of students and/or people who are important to the students
  - student work
  - quotes from students, family and community members or famous people who represent the cultures of the students
  - signs in multiple languages

What else does this make you think of?

## 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

# Barriers and Support at the School

*Have you heard this before?*

- “We’ve all gone to school.”
- “They never show up.”
- “I have 28 other students.”
- “Poor kid – this is her fourth school in \_\_\_ years.”
- “The parents just don’t care.”

## **Strategies!**

*Here are three...there are many more*

- Read the strategy
- Share with another this strategy (or another you know)
- Listen to your partner’s strategy
- Find a new partner
- Repeat!

## 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

# Tigard Tualatin School District's Equity Framework

- Courageous Conversations – Pacific Education Group
- District Equity Leadership Team
- Equity Teams
- Collaborative Action Research for Equity
- Partnerships for Academically Successful Students
- Student Leadership Teams



**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