

PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Family engagement is a shared responsibility in which schools and other community organizations are committed to reaching out to involve families in meaningful ways, and families are committed to actively supporting their children's learning and development. The Santa Clara County community will be inspired and supported to create partnerships where families are valued, nurtured, and engaged in children's education and healthy development.

Partnership: The reciprocal relationship between families and staff is one of equality and respect, resulting in the creation of a mutually beneficial partnership. Success comes from promoting the excellence of all partners.

Family Strengths: Families are assets, not barriers to overcome or work around. They are vital resources to themselves, to one another, and to programs.

Social Support: Support is important to all families. Social support networks create connections and build relationships, promoting the overall well-being of the child, the family, and the community.

Cultural Competence: Each family's culture is recognized, valued, respected, and reflected in practice.

Shared Leadership and Power: Families and staff are partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Shared Responsibility: All community members recognize that learning begins at birth and occurs in multiple settings, and all take responsibility for expanding learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Child Success: Families, staff, and community members collaborate to advocate that children have access to opportunities that equitably support their success and healthy development.

Adapted from principles developed by the Harvard Family Research Project, Parent Services Project, and the National PTA.