

CAS
Community Schools:
Parent/Family Engagement

National Center
for
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Children's Aid Society

Janice Chu-Zhu,
Senior Director
National Capacity Building

Parent /Family Engagement

Core strategy, Core to the model

- ♦ Parents are central players
- ♦ Parents are key allies and assets, not burdens
- ♦ Increase their involvement in their children's education, deepen that intensity and increase participation in their children's future.
- ♦ Engage them in skill building workshops, advocacy events, foster effective leadership
- ♦ Link to the home and empower the whole family
- ♦ Critical importance of making the schools truly accessible
- ♦ Agency administrators and leaders were actively involved in events and celebrations, this established a level of trust.
- ♦ "More than offering services, we offered them a relationship"

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Removing Barriers, Promoting Development



- ◆ Large population of immigrants
 - language and literacy challenges
 - acculturation, separation and loss issues
 - Lack health insurance and documentation
 - Low income, under resourced, and isolated
- ◆ CAS: culturally responsive, multiple points of entry and multiple opportunities.
 - Parent Coordinator; family resource room; Leadership Institute (workshops); Adult Education; support groups (advisory council, clubs, etc.); and Advocacy.

Frameworks

6 Types of Parent Involvement



- ◆ Parenting
- ◆ Communicating
- ◆ Volunteering
- ◆ Learning at Home
- ◆ Decision Making
- ◆ Collaborating with Community



USDOE

Dual Capacity-Building Framework



- ◆ Policy and Program Goals-to build and enhance the capacity of staff/families in the “4C” areas:
 - Capabilities (skills and knowledge)
 - Connections (networks)
 - Cognition (beliefs, values)
 - Confidence (self-efficacy)

CAS Community Schools: Reaching Parents with Learning

CAS Parent Model



- ◆ Education
 - Literacy, experiential learning and teaching
- ◆ Communication
 - Parent Brochures, letters, manuals, newsletters, program calendars and advocacy
- ◆ College Awareness
 - College preparedness from birth thru high school
 - Common Application, FAFSA, Scholarships, Student Loans

Parent Literacy



♦ Education

- Language & literacy
- Identifying their child's learning style
- Learning through play & daily life activities
- Brain development
- Parent book clubs & literacy circles
- Pasos-Steps (to college readiness)

Parent Literacy



♦ Parent Classes

- ESL,GED, Mind in the Making
- Parent Summer Camp
 - Topics include Communicating Effectively with your Child, Advocacy and exposure to cultural institutions such as libraries, museums, colleges and universities.

Parent Literacy – Theme Based



- ♦ September – Attendance Awareness Month
- ♦ October – Hispanic Heritage Month
- ♦ November – Thanksgiving/Service Learning
- ♦ December – Holiday Celebration/Immigration Clinic
- ♦ January – Martin Luther King, Jr. – Day of Service
- ♦ February – African American & Dominican History
- ♦ March – Women's History Month
- ♦ April – Child Abuse Awareness Month
- ♦ May – Mother's Day & Service Learning
- ♦ June – Father's Day & Graduations

Documenting Parent Engagement Practices



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Parent Engagement Work Plan



Program	Program/Participant Outcomes (please note distinct outcome for program and participants)	Aligned with: School Age Division Goal: Family Promotes Learning	Curriculum or resource materials used and distributed.	Epstein's 6 types of Parent Involvement (parenting, communicating, decision-making, collaborating with community) Basis for National PTA Standards	Staffing (Roles: Lead & support; Deliverer: subcontracts, partners, etc.)	Measures and Indicators
Education EPIC MITM	<p>Program Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Provide parents with techniques to engage in reading with child. *Increase parent participation in child's literacy development <p>Participant Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Parent will gain skills in using literacy materials. *Parents will increase confidence level in leading child in activities. 	<p>DOE's 4 Cs</p> <p>School goals & objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy goals <p>Child & Youth Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early reading (literacy) <p>USDOE</p> <p>Building skills and knowledge</p>	<p>EPIC MITM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parenting – providing parents a curriculum that will assist them in reading with their children. Communication – flyers and phone calls to parents to attend. College awareness. 	<p>PC works with EPIC trainers to schedule 3 hour workshops for parents.</p> <p>PC will recruit parents to attend.</p> <p>PC implements PASOS.</p>	<p>Parents increase the amount of time they spent with their children on literacy activities</p> <p>Parents report they increased time doing literacy activities from none to three times a week.</p>



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