



Framework for Parent Engagement in PUSD

The PUSD School Board unanimously adopted a Strategic Plan in April 2010. The Plan identified six strategic priorities:

- Powerful instruction
- Outstanding staff
- Quality learning environment
- High-performing, accountable organization
- Meaningful collaboration and partnerships
- Parent engagement

Parent Engagement was a new category that surfaced from a wealth of comments and feedback from the more than 800 people who participated in the planning process about the need to create a more welcoming environment for parents and to provide meaningful opportunities for parents to work with schools, teachers, and other educators on behalf of students. Participants expressed a strong desire for the District to embrace parents as partners in the work of educating students and suggested ideas that focused on three areas – communication, opportunities for engagement, and support for parents. The Steering Committee echoed sentiments that a world-class education can be achieved by engaging parents/families in schools.

Ideas presented under this strategic priority include:

Improve communication between parents/guardians and schools through a multi-pronged approach.

1. Utilize technology to inform parents/guardians of students' academic progress
2. Collaborate with public libraries to improve communication with parents and families
3. Offer cross-cultural and cross-generational communication workshops so parents and students can better understand and support each other
4. Promote communication between parents to improve cultural understanding and support information sharing
5. Sponsor the sharing of best practices among parents/guardians

Engage parents/guardians through a range of activities that recognize the various factors that affect participation.

1. Engage parents through volunteer opportunities at school sites and throughout the District
2. Include parent engagement in curriculum as a mechanism to improve collaboration between parents/guardians and teachers
3. Utilize a team approach to improve parent engagement at schools and to foster partnerships with school staff
4. Conduct home visits and neighborhood based outreach to engage with parents through meetings at community centers, churches, libraries, grocery stores, etc.
5. Leverage resources to create a District-wide parent/guardian groups that can advocate for solutions to issues of racial disparity, special needs, cultural competency, safety, etc.

Support parents in becoming more engaged in their student's academic and personal growth.

1. Adopt effective and proven parent engagement models
2. Create opportunities for parent groups to share best practices across the District



3. Identify parent/guardian engagement opportunities at the middle and high school level
4. Provide support for parent engagement activities in schools
5. Partner with community entities (churches, non profits, etc) to sponsor workshops to support parents/guardians and families with school and community engagement
6. Support leadership development for parents at school sites and at the District level

Strengthen relationships between parents/guardians and staff at all levels within the District.

1. Provide professional development for District staff on strategies to better engage parents and guardians from all ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds in school activities

Culture Statement. Another community-generated contribution to the Strategic Plan was the following statement of District culture:

Pasadena Unified School District shall cultivate a culture where parents, students, and the community are welcomed, valued, and supported. We will collaborate with each other and our partners to achieve academic excellence, pursue continuous personal and professional improvement, and build positive relationships. We will celebrate our strengths and continually embrace opportunities to improve as a community of learners.

Definition of Parent Engagement:

Parent Engagement is defined as a partnership between PUSD and families with a mutual commitment to:

- Build and maintain trusting relationships characterized by openness, integrity, respect a welcoming environment and two-way communication.
- Promote shared responsibility for decision making, student academic performance, and school improvement.
- Act collaboratively as informed advocates for ALL children by modeling the values, culture and priorities adopted in the PUSD strategic plan.

Parent Engagement Goals. Staff and parents have identified the following parent engagement goals for the coming year:

Goal 1: Establish strong communication and relationships between parents/guardians and schools.

Goal 2: Provide a diverse range of opportunities for parent/guardian involvement.

Goal 3: Promote proactive engagement in students' academic and personal growth.

The Welcome Center, directed by Theresa Doran and located on the first floor of the District Office, is the District department responsible for parent engagement activities. A Parent Engagement Action Team, including parent representatives, will play a key role in implementing parent engagement goals and objectives. The Action Team will include representatives from the various parent groups and councils, but anyone is welcome to attend quarterly meetings and assist with specific implementation tasks.