



Utah State Board of Education

# Family & Community News

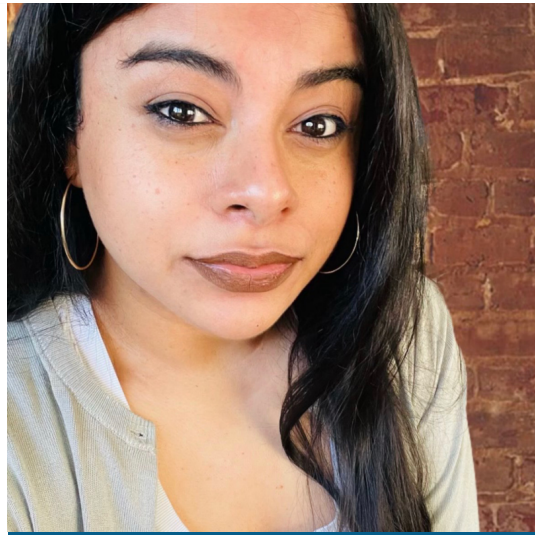
**Welcome!**

**In this newsletter, you will find important information such as:**

- Best practices: What are schools across our state doing that is having a positive impact on their families and students?
- Important reminders and announcements: Grant application dates, upcoming training or conferences, and community or networking events.
- Celebrations: Highlights of school, district, community, or government agencies doing great work for our community.

The Family and  
Community  
Engagement section at  
USB E has created this  
newsletter to connect  
with you and your

families to help build a community for all of you to share ideas, and inspiration that help meet the needs of your families and students. Our goal is that we will be able to be systems of supports for each other.

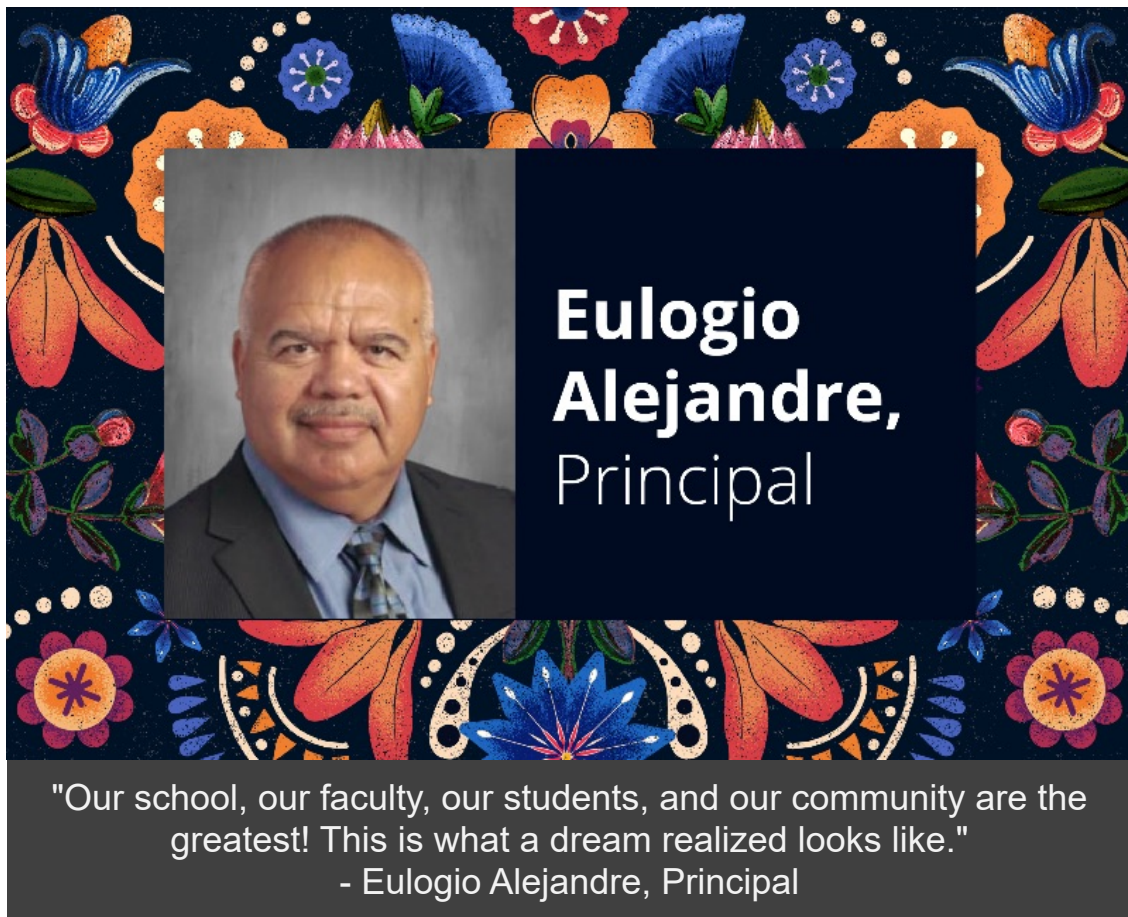


This is Susie Estrada, the Family and Community Engagement Specialist behind our newsletter. She has been with the USBE since December 2022.

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## Important Dates

- Our June 1st and 2nd [REAL Family Engagement Training in Partnership with the Flamboyant Foundation](#) is FULL. Accepted applicants will be notified within the next couple of weeks.
  - An additional REAL Family Engagement training will be scheduled. Look for the application soon!
  - June 7th-9th: Join the USBE in Philadelphia at the [2023 National Community Schools and Family Engagement Conference](#)
  - Registration for the [2023 National Family Engagement Summit](#) is open! Virtual and in-person options are available.
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## **Promising Practices: Esperanza Elementary**

In Spanish, the word Esperanza means hope; at Esperanza Elementary, hope comes to life. Walking into the hidden treasure behind a restaurant and bank in West Valley, I was greeted by a welcoming receptionist. As I chuckled at the posted sign, "Does your teacher know you're here?" I was invited to Principal Alejandro's office.

Meeting with the Principal who resides and has previously worked in Ogden, it was clear to me that this was a professional fully committed to their life's work and a legacy of dignity and empowerment for students, families, and all of the other professionals in the building.

"Treat every child with dignity and respect first," says Principal Alejandro as he explains how every child and family is greeted by staff at drop-off every morning. Leadership staff participates in these daily rituals. Administrative presence is one factor stated by families as something they need more of to know that they belong and are being heard.

## **Key Take-aways from Esperanza Elementary**

- **Support family well-being:** Build on student interest (Mariachi classes) and support the advancement of families (citizenship classes) with the help of local partners.
- **Leave the door open:** Offer dignity to all. Is someone late? Thank them for coming. Are families not engaging? Complete your duties to the highest standard consistently regardless. Continue to communicate and show up. It is okay to step away from the professional self and meet families through a personal lens. We are more than our professional titles.
- **Be intentional:** Support your paraprofessionals and prioritize best practices in your plan for the year. Esperanza has "grown their own teachers" by providing financial support for their educational growth and has budgeted for family engagement events including home visits outside of grants to ensure the sustainability of these programs first. What you prioritize will ripple into other goals.

## Do you have something you want to celebrate?

Email: [susie.estrada@schools.utah.gov](mailto:susie.estrada@schools.utah.gov)

Include a description of your celebration and a picture of what would best represent your celebration. If the picture is of a person, a media release form is required and will be supplied upon request.

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