

# Family Engagement and Utah Schools

**Sheryl Ellsworth**

Utah State Board of Education  
Family/Community Engagement  
Specialist



**Utah State Board of Education**



*What do you mean  
when you say,  
“Family/Community  
Engagement Specialist”?*

## My role

- Share next, best practices
- Train educators on evidence-based strategies, namely home visits
- TA support for LEAs who receive a risk score of a 4 or 5 on parent survey for Special Education
- Teach people how to be nice

My motivation





His cheeks!



*What do we mean  
when we say,  
“Family  
engagement”?*

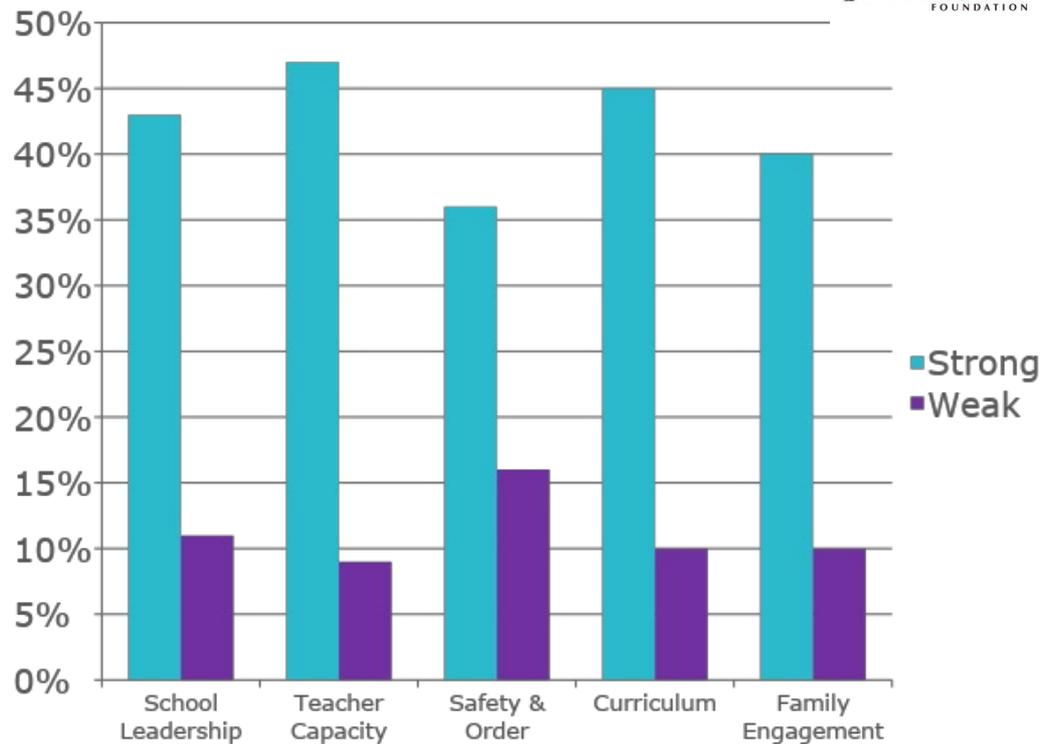
# Definition of Family Engagement

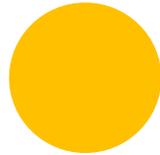
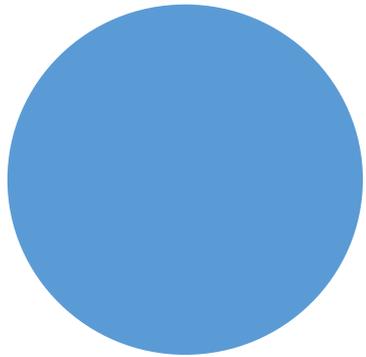
- Family Engagement is a *full, equal, and equitable partnership* among families, educators and community partners to promote children's learning and development from birth through college and career.

-Ann Henderson & Judy Carson

## Family Engagement & School Improvement

- 5 key factors predicted school improvement
- Weakness in any one area = school's chance of improving is ~10%

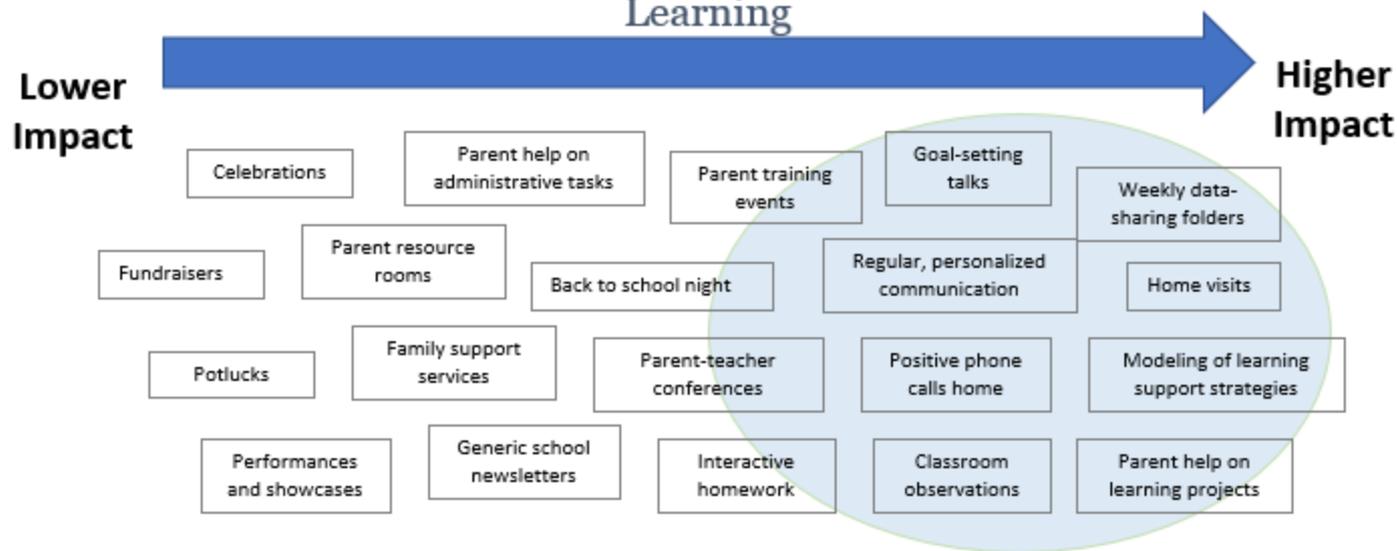




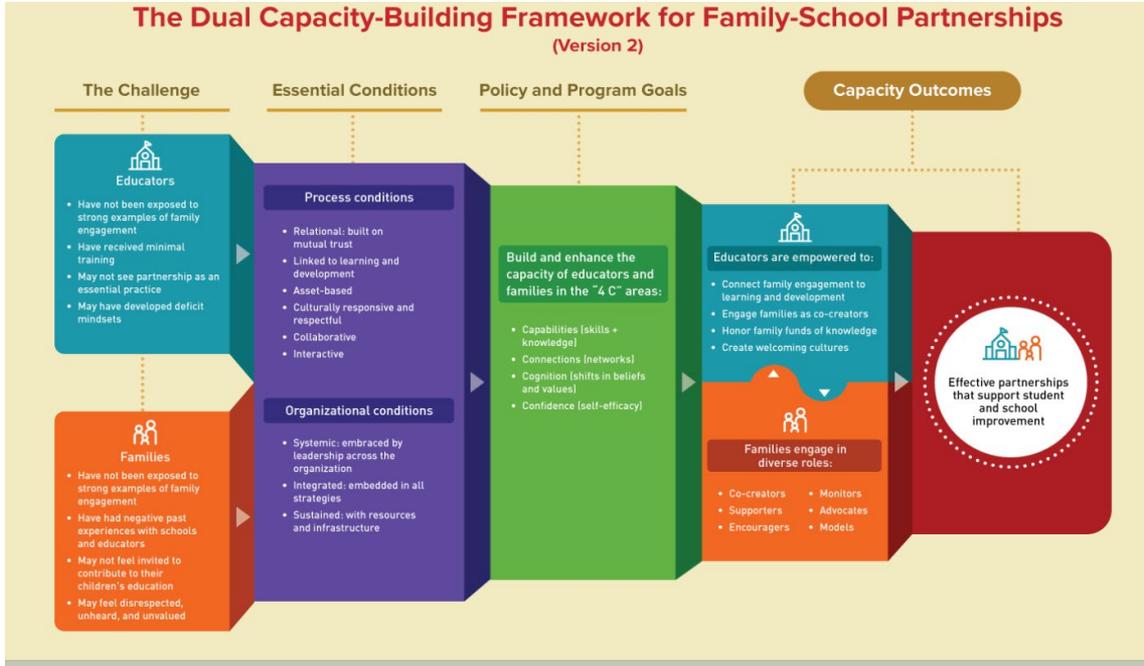
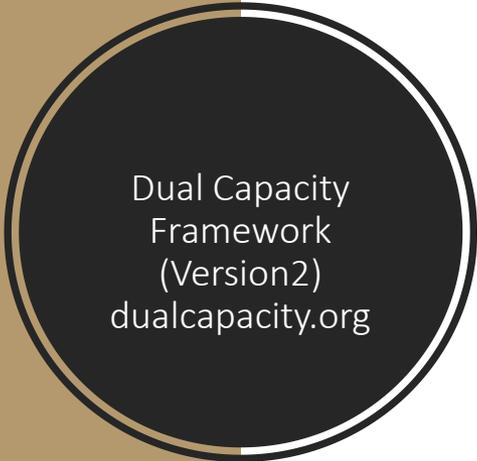
# Family Engagement Frameworks

# High Impact Family Engagement

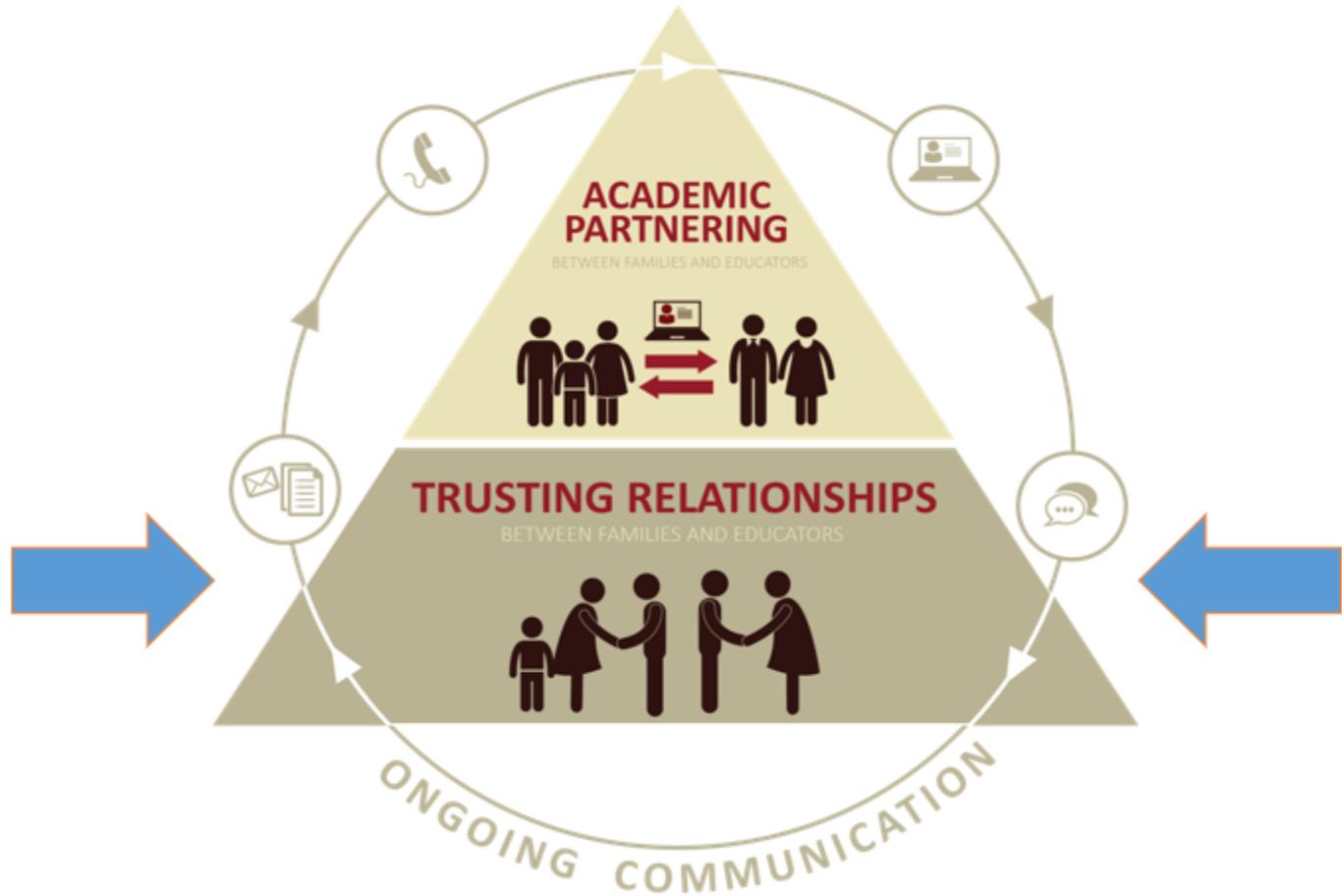
USDOE Framework: Family Engagement Should Be Relational, Should Build Capacity Of Families And Staff, And Be Linked to Learning



Courtesy of Flamboyant Foundation



# Family Engagement Grounded in Trust



Current  
Evidence Based  
Family  
Engagement  
Strategy

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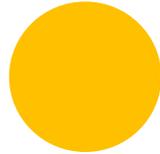
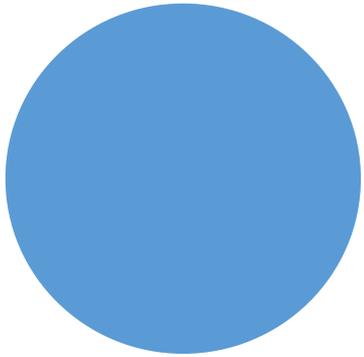


## Home Visits:

- Reduces absenteeism
- Fewer suspensions and expulsions
- Improves communication between home and school
- Shared accountability
- Improves test scores

## Under this model:

- Visits last 30 minutes and are voluntary for everyone (teachers and families).
- Educators are trained and compensated.
- Educators go out in pairs.
- All students (or a cross section of students) are visited (no negative targeting).
- Visits focus on shared vision and values for success of students.



# Home Visit Update

SY 2019-2020



		Total # of Home		Percentage of	Total # of Participating		Percentage
		visits	Total # of Students	Students Visited	Teachers	Total # of Teachers	Participating T
Box Eleder SD	Discovery Elementary	90	460	20%	13	18	72%
Box Eleder SD	Lake View Elementary	425	606	70%	19	25	76%
Box Eleder SD	McKinley Elementary	118	596	19.7	9	22	41%
Box Eleder SD	Mountain View Elementary	12	338	3%	10	20	50%
Box Eleder SD	North Park Elementary	330	497	66%	20	21	95%
Charter	CS Lewis	91	314	30%	13	19	68%
Charter	Greenwood Charter	57	376	15%	11	17	65%
Charter	Salt Lake Center for Science Education	23	100	23%	18	26	69.20%
Charter	Utah International Charter	20	41	18%	12	18	67%
Davis	Vae View Elementary	58	354	15%	11	16	69%
Granite SD	Academy Park Elementary	163	163	36%	14	19	73%
Granite SD	Beehive Elementary	56	56	10%	15	24	63%
Granite SD	Bennion Junior High	182	182	16%	13	48	27%
Granite SD	Cottonwood High						
Granite SD	David Gourley Elementary						
Granite SD	Farnsworth Elementary						
Granite SD	Granger Elementary	186	176	22%	32	45	71%
Granite SD	Granite Park Junior High	4	4	0.70%	8	40	20%
Granite SD	Hartvigsen School	2	2	1%	4	21	1%
Granite SD	Hillsdale Elementary						
Granite SD	Jackling Elementary	38	56	16%	8	14	60%
Granite SD	Kearns High						
Granite SD	Kearns Junior High	64	68	8%	11	29	38%
Granite SD	Lincoln Elementary	64	64	12%	14	31	45%
Granite SD	Moss Elementary						
Granite SD	Mountain View	42	42	7%	13	32	41%
Granite SD	Pioneer Elementary	209	120	23%	11	22	50%
Granite SD	Plymouth Elementary	25	25	4%	9	28	32%
Granite SD	Roosevelt Elementary	61	62	19%	6	18	33%
Granite SD	South Kearns Elem	204	204	60%	16	19	84%
Granite SD	Taylorville Elementary	113	113	25%	14	17	82%
Granite SD	Woodrow Wilson	227	223	42.60%	20	26	77%
Iron SD	Cedar East Elementary	359	537	63%	23	24	96%
Iron SD	Parowan Elementary	165	405	41%	8	14	58%
Iron SD	Three Peaks Elementary	425	647	65.69%	21	23	91.30%
Ogden	Bonneville Elementary	200	462	44%	15	20	75%
Ogden	Hillcrest Elementary	126	376	34%	11	12	92%
Salt Lake SD	Backman Elementary	19	28	16%	19	34	56%
Salt Lake SD	Escalante Elementary	75	405	18.50%	10	23	43%
San Juan SD	Bluff Elementary	47	72	89%	6	6	100%
Tooele SD	Sterling Elementary	108	1,342	8%	10	26	38%

# Anecdotal Story: Parent Perspective

“As a parent I really love home visits because it gives the teachers a chance to see their students in their most comfortable environment. It's awesome to have them in our homes and get to know them on a more personal level. I love that they ask my kids questions about themselves and what goals they have for the year and they ask how they can help us as parents to support our students in their goals. It's a really great way to solidify the "team" aspect of our child's learning.”

Vae View Elementary Parent

# Anecdotal Story: Teacher Perspective

“Home visits have been extremely beneficial for several reasons. When we meet with the families in their own environment, we get a better idea of what each student is dealing with as an individual. Rather than starting our school year out with fifty students from square one, we actually feel like we know who they are (by name and face and their families) and what they might be struggling with. Families have been open to sharing personal things about what their child needs and what we can do as teachers to help them be successful in school. In addition to the students’ needs, the home visits also allow us to see what each of the students like or what they are familiar with in their home environments. We can actually 'see' this, the students always want to tell us things at school, that we really do not have too much time to talk with them about. But, if we have visited their home environment, we have had these conversations and we can connect our teaching to their background knowledge much easier than if we did not know them at all.”

Sterling Elementary Third Grade Teacher

# Introduction Next Best Practice

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[LEARN MORE](#)

## Scholastic **FACE** and **Dr. Karen Mapp**

Partnering Together to **Strengthen** Family School Partnerships

 SCHOLASTIC



**FACE**

Professional  
Learning Services

DR. KAREN MAPP PRESENTS

 SCHOLASTIC

**LITERACY  
EVENTS**

# District Leaders Where do you Start?

**Step 1:** Professional Learning for School and District Leaders - *Foundations of Family Engagement (2-3 hour session)*

- Connecting the dots between student achievement and family engagement
- Understanding the difference between parent involvement and family engagement
- Exploring Core Beliefs of family engagement
- Understanding leadership role in building the capacity of educators to partner with families to support learning at home
  - Forming a Family Engagement Action Team



# District Leaders Where do you Start?

**Step 2:** Professional Learning for Family Engagement Action Teams

- The Dr. Mapp Training Series

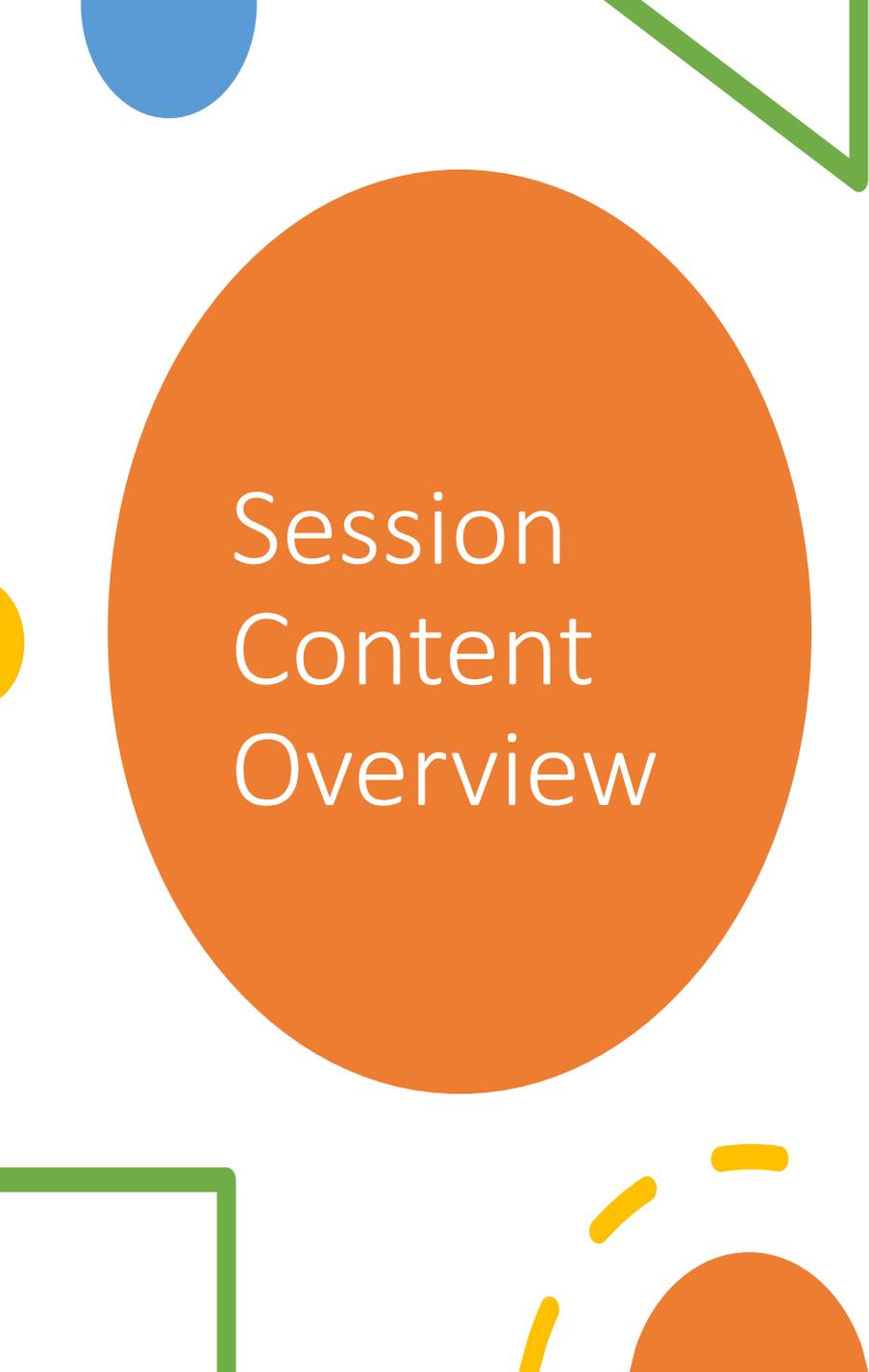
Building Family Engagement at the School Level

# Overview of Dr. Mapp Training Series

# What to Expect

Three-part workshop series designed to assist school-based teams incorporate best practices family engagement into their efforts to improve student learning.

- 3 Sessions (non-consecutive days)
- 6 hours per session
- Hands-on and interactive
- Homework between sessions



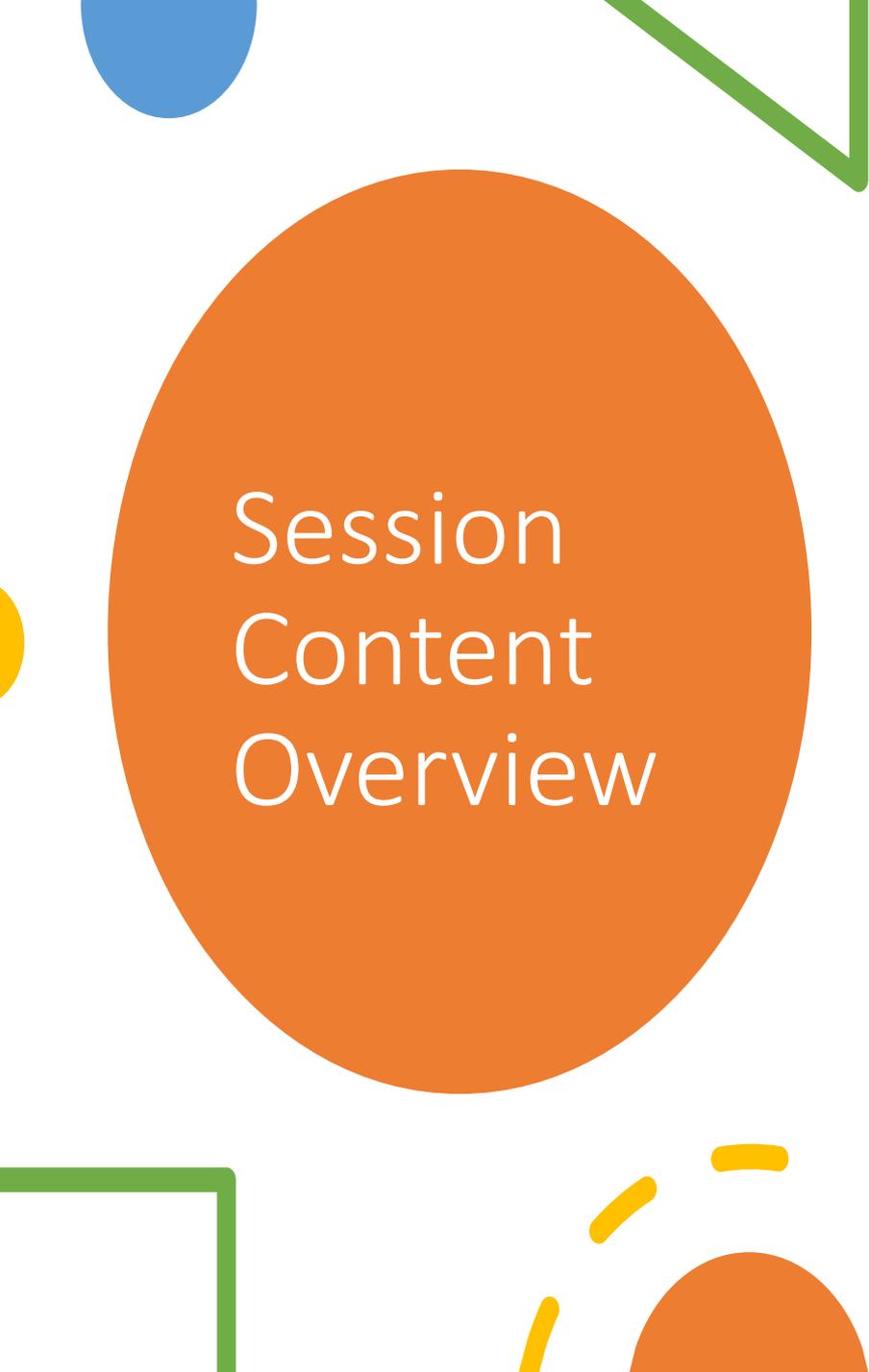
# Session Content Overview

- **Session 1: Reframing Family Engagement**
- Foundational training to underscore the link between family engagement and student achievement.
- Learning Objectives:
  - 1. Understand the link between family and community engagement and student achievement
  - 2. Develop a strength-based lens to examine family partnership work



# Session Content Overview

- **Session 2: Redesigning Family Engagement Events**
- Map current family engagement efforts to the essential practices and utilize new learning to repurpose and retool a family engagement event.
- Learning Objectives:
  - 1. Integrate family engagement strategies to student learning goals
  - 2. Evaluate family engagement efforts



# Session Content Overview

- Session 3: **Engaging Families in Learning all Year**
- Connecting family engagement to student learning goals. School teams use this session to “plan the work.”

## Learning Objectives:

- 1. Articulate and integrate family engagement strategies with student learning goals
- 2. Understand how to evaluate your family engagement efforts

# Team Composition

- Who should be on the team?
  - \*Administrator
  - \*Teacher
  - \*Parent/Caregiver
  - Support Staff/Specialist – Parent Liaison/Coordinator, Counselor, School Secretary/Registrar, Coach
  - Community Partner
- Think about....How you will recruit for the team?  
Who will you invite?

# Your Commitment

## What will it take to be successful?

- Attend all three sessions
- Active engagement in the training and implementation
- Do the work between sessions and after
- Communicate and share with school and community new learning from the training
- Document your learning and share findings with colleagues
- Be open to feedback and support



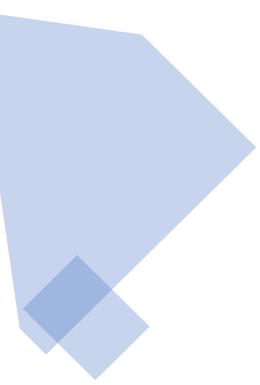
# Training Cost



DR. MAPP SERIES COHORT TRAINING -  
\$15,996



PER SCHOOL COST \$2,666 (BASED ON 6  
SCHOOL-BASED TEAMS PARTICIPATING)

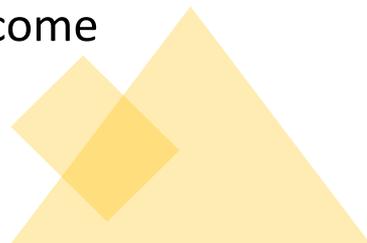


# Funds Available

## **Home Visits, Matching bases**

- Email me by Friday, March 27 if interested and training 2-3 training dates and times (2 hours)
- Instructions and potential (simple) application will be sent

**FACE**, LEA funds \$2000 (per school), USBE will cover the remaining contract cost and will locate training space

- We will not cover the cost of subs
  - We will cover cost of lunch
  - Email me by Friday, March 27, include number of interested schools
  - Details to come
- 

# Q & A Time



Thank  
You!

Stay In Touch...

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**Utah State Board of Education**