

Family Engagement: Where are we headed to? How did we get here?



Sheryl Ellsworth

Utah State Board of Education

Family/Community Engagement Specialist

Do Now: Survey

https://usbe.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5pk2TwlHpou7zL



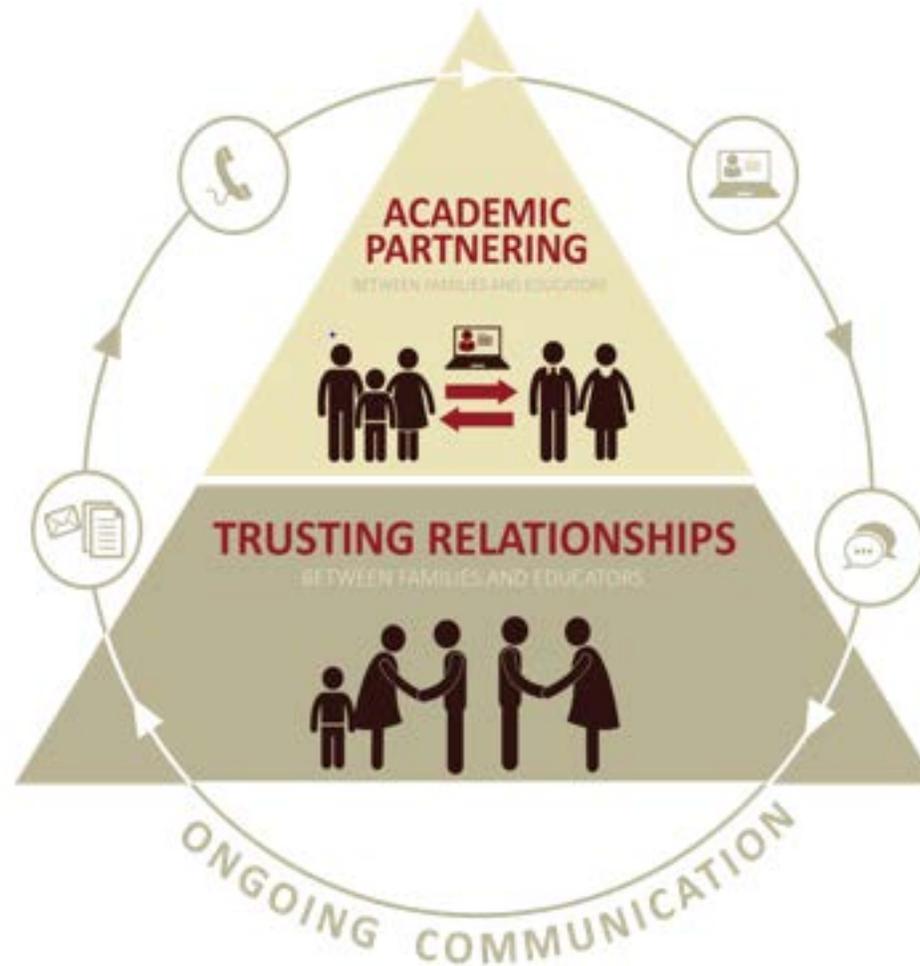
Definition of Family Engagement

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

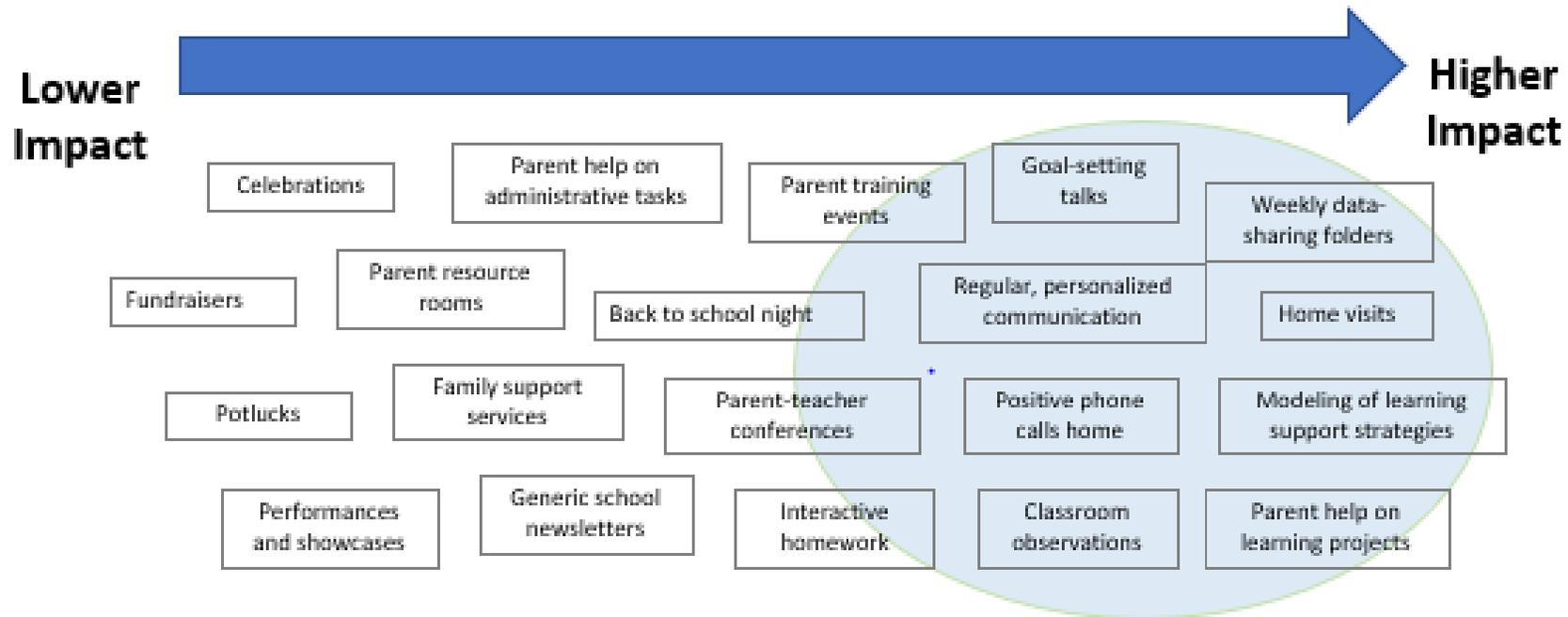
Family Engagement Frameworks

Effective Family Engagement



High Impact Family Engagement

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

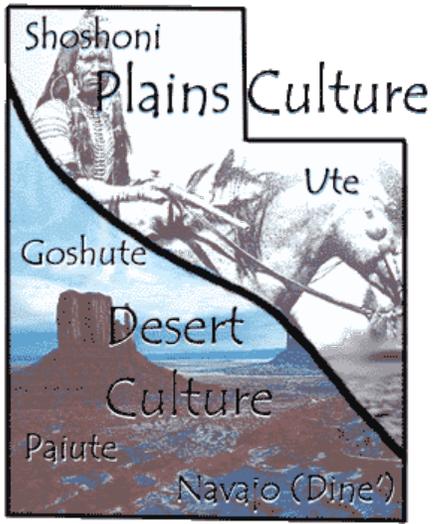


Courtesy of Flamboyant Foundation

Dual Capacity Framework (Version 2) dualcapacity.org

The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)





UTAH FAMILY ENGAGEMENT LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

National Flamboyan Family Engagement Fellowship



Team Introductions

- **Sheryl Ellsworth**, Family/Community Engagement Specialist, Utah State Board Of Education
- **Jennifer Mayer-Glenn**, Director of Family School Collaboration, Salt Lake City School District
- **Jadee Talbot**, Associate Director Community Centers, Granite School District
- **Paul Kuttner**, Education Partnership Manager, University Neighborhood Partners, University of Utah



National Family Engagement Fellowship!

the
Atlanta
team

the
Dallas
team

the
Memphis
team

the
Milwaukee
team

the
Utah
team

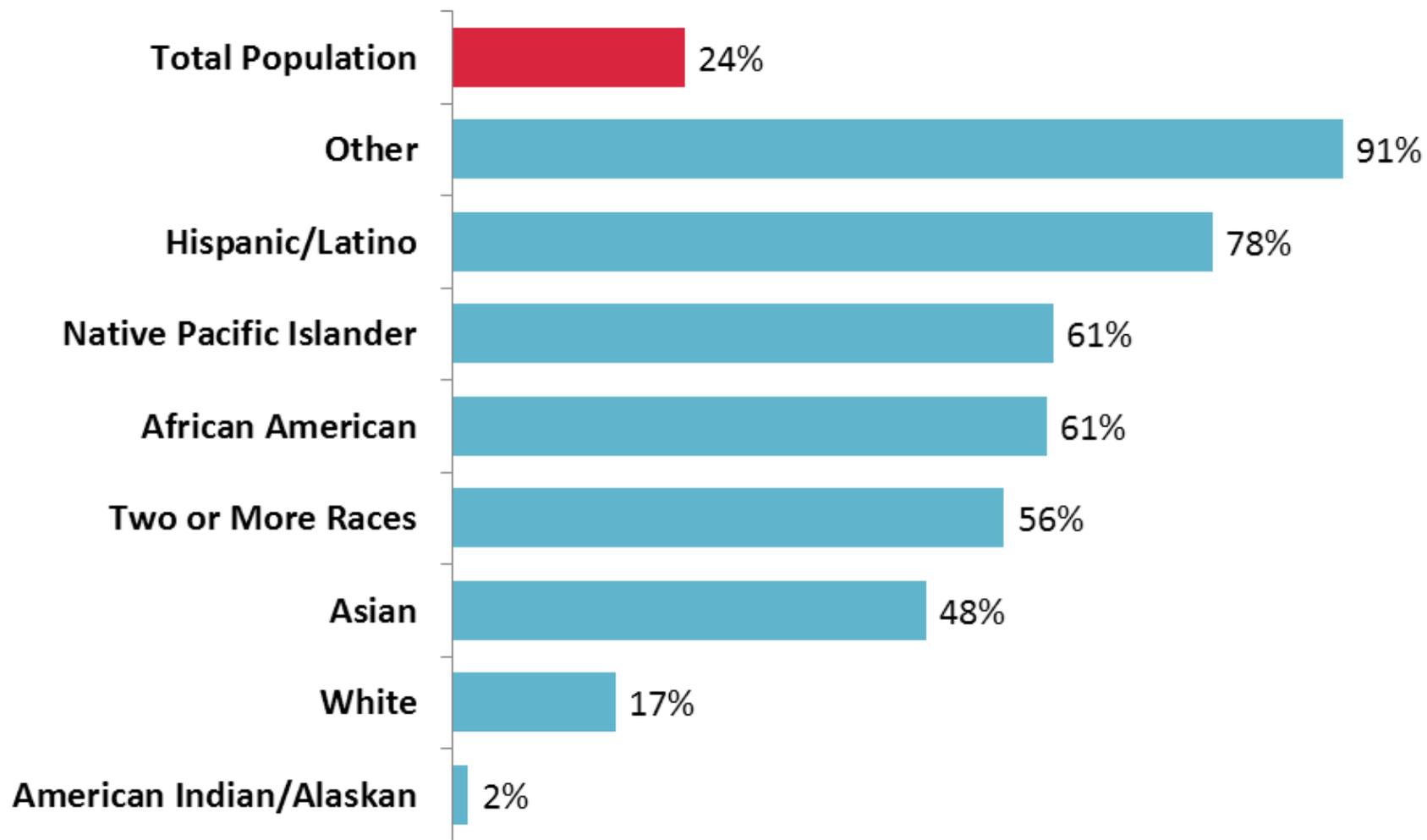


Utah Context

History and current day relations
between home and school.



2000 – 2010 Growth in Utah's Population by Race and Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2010 Census.

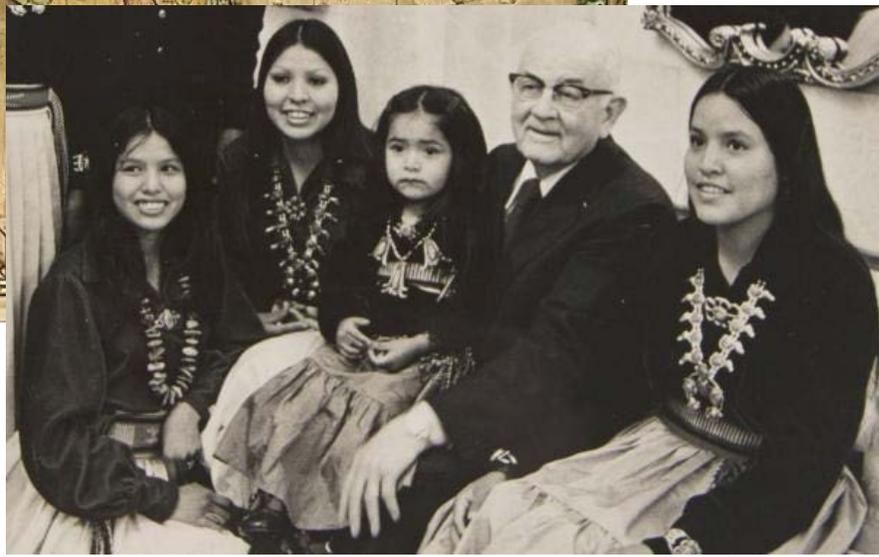
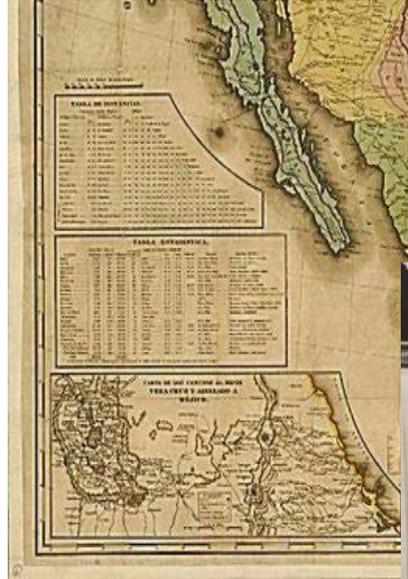
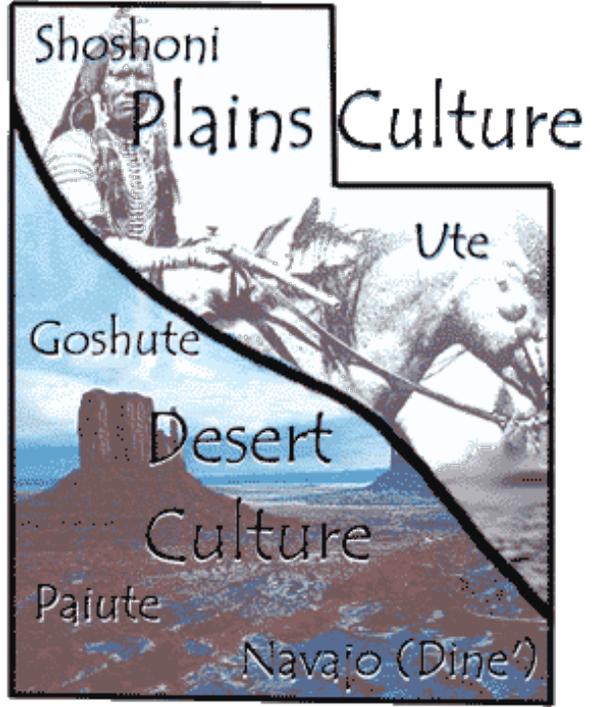
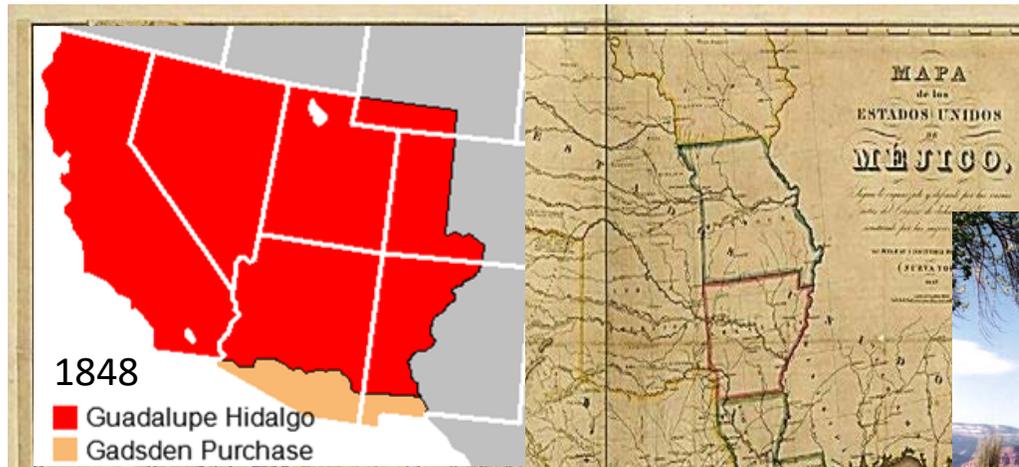
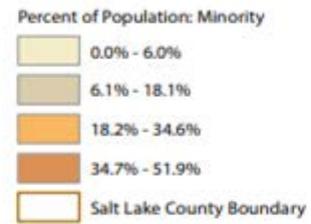
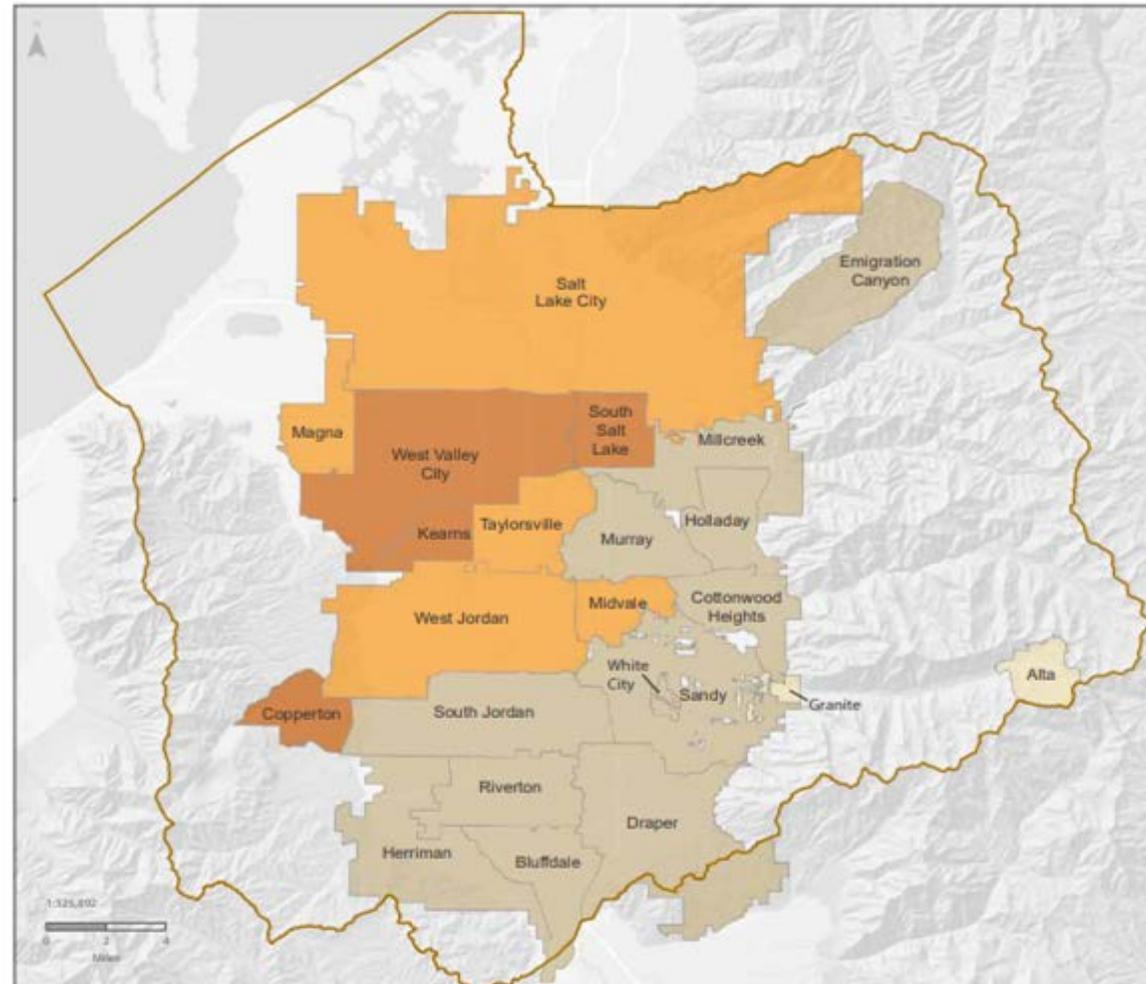
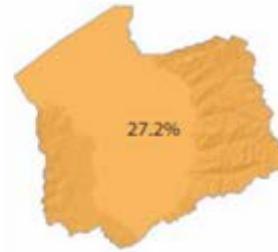


Figure 28: Minority Population
Salt Lake County Places, 2011-2015 Five-Year Estimate



SALT
LAKE
COUNTY





THE UTAH COMPACT

A DECLARATION OF FIVE PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE UTAH'S IMMIGRATION DISCUSSION

FEDERAL SOLUTIONS Immigration is a federal policy issue between the U.S. government and other countries—not Utah and other countries. We urge Utah's congressional delegation, and others, to lead efforts to strengthen federal laws and protect our national borders. We urge state leaders to adopt reasonable policies addressing immigrants in Utah.

LAW ENFORCEMENT We respect the rule of law and support law enforcement's professional judgment and discretion. Local law enforcement resources should focus on criminal activities, not civil violations of federal code.

FAMILIES Strong families are the foundation of successful communities. We oppose policies that unnecessarily separate families. We champion policies that support families and improve the health, education and well-being of all Utah children.

ECONOMY Utah is best served by a free-market philosophy that maximizes individual freedom and opportunity. We acknowledge the economic role immigrants play as workers and taxpayers. Utah's immigration policies must reaffirm our global reputation as a welcoming and business-friendly state.

A FREE SOCIETY Immigrants are integrated into communities across Utah. We must adopt a humane approach to this reality, reflecting our unique culture, history and spirit of inclusion. The way we treat immigrants will say more about us as a free society and less about our immigrant neighbors. Utah should always be a place that welcomes people of goodwill.



Empathy

How we went about learning from
our communities



Findings

Themes & insights from our
research



Insights

- History and current context of inequity have led to a deep lack of trust between families and schools.
- We can begin to heal & rebuild our webs of relationships, so that we have the collective capacity to address root causes.
- Distrust can be maintained or disrupted through micro-interactions that build up to school and district culture.
 - Welcoming & Valuing
 - Reciprocal Learning
 - Impact

Welcoming & Valuing

- The things that make parents feel welcome or unwelcome in schools are relational, and turn on relatively small instances of personal interaction with teachers, principals, office staff, nurses, etc.



I remember in one of my elementary schools that we actually had a principal at the door, welcoming everybody who came in. Asking everybody if he didn't know your name, ask you your name and say 'who's your teacher? And are these your parents? Please introduce me to your family.' That made you feel important. That made you feel like your principal is interested in you. He cares about you. He wants to know who your parents are. And to direct yourself directly to your parents that makes them feel like 'Hey you are welcome here anytime.'

- Parent

Reciprocal Learning

- Teachers and families benefit when they learn more about each other, including their contexts and roles in supporting students, and want the other person to learn about them as well.
- The focus is often on families gaining school knowledge, rather than what both can learn from one another.



I think my goal initially is to try and understand the role the parent wants to play in their child's education. I try to understand the role the parent sees me in as far as being the educator. Probably the most important goal is to try and create a network of support for the student in the way we can utilize the best that teacher, parent and community have to offer.

- Teacher Effective at Family Engagement

Impact

- When families see that their advocacy or engagement produces results, room is made for trust, relationship building, collaboration, and empowerment for further engagement.



[One parent] just got crosswalk flags and a crosswalk guard outside of their school from work that she worked on. She's been so excited. 'I did something at the school for my kids to make it better.' So just them knowing that they can do that and going out and doing it is really great to see.

- Family Leadership Development Partner

Our User Needs Statements

Welcoming & Valuing: School faculty and staff need to make the goal of welcoming and valuing families as an integrated part of everyone's job because a sense of (un)welcome is developed through everyday personal interactions that carry large meaning.

Reciprocal Learning: Educators and families need opportunities to learn from and about one another—their priorities, their contexts, their definitions of family-school collaboration — in ways that shift power imbalances, because there are too many assumptions being made in the absence of knowledge and relationships.

Impact: Families need to experience their engagement — of whatever kind — having an impact, because it demonstrates that schools value families' knowledge and capacity and creates space for relationships to form.

Discuss with your
neighbors

In what ways do the findings
resonate with your experiences
and observations?

In what ways does it differ?



Utah's Strategic Plan for Family Engagement:

Utah Schools Belong to You. You Belong in Utah Schools.

Our Vision

All families in Utah experience schools as spaces of belonging — spaces where they are welcomed and valued, where they can build relationships and learn with educators, and where their engagement has an impact on students and the school.

High-Level Goals

Goal 1: Establish a State Vision & Standards for Family Engagement

Utah will have a vision, definition, and standards for family engagement that are aligned, rooted in research, well communicated, and shaped by family perspectives.

Goal 2: Build School & Family Capacity to Engage

Utah schools and families will have the opportunity to engage in high quality family engagement learning and develop family engagement improvement plans, led by site-based teams including representatives from administration, staff, teachers, and families.

Goal 3: Establish a System for Documenting Impact

Utah will establish a data and evaluation system that supports schools and district in improving their ability to document the impact of family engagement.

Goal 4: Build a State Network

Schools will have the opportunity to engage with other schools across the state to share knowledge and resources throughout a state-wide network.

Q & A Time



Thank You!

Stay In Touch...

sheryl.ellsworth@schools.utah.gov

(801) 538.7733



Utah State Board of Education