

# Family Engagement

Seattle Professional Learning Community PLC

*“Successful relationships become partnerships when there is two way communication and parents and practitioners really listen to each other and value each other’s views to support the best outcomes for every child.”*

# Why attend the Harvard Family Engagement Institute?

- ▶ Family Engagement Institute is a research based institute that utilizes over 50 years of research and best practices to support all partners to improve schools.
- ▶ Partners include Schools, Families, Communities, Districts and other stakeholders vested in aspirations for a robust and effective democracy.
- ▶ To learn from national and international peers some of the low cost/ high impact strategies to support student learning.

# Key Learning

- ▶ **Dual Capacity Framework-**
  - ▶ the US Department of Education finds Dual Capacity Framework to be a useful framework to advance family engagement in schools for dynamic school improvement.

# What is Dual Capacity Framework?

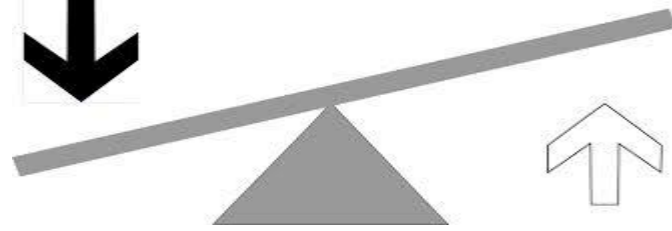
Dual Capacity Framework is a framework that requires every partner in a school system to have tools needed to identify, address, and assess needs, which in turn, allows for course correction.

Figure 2: The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships



# Dual Capacity Framework

# Readiness --



For *every* measure of accountability there must be a commensurate measure of support.

School and program staff able to:

- ▶ Honor and recognize family and community **strengths**
- ▶ Utilize these strengths to **connect** family engagement to student learning (rather than bring in families and teach them how to do school)
- ▶ Create **inviting** spaces and events that make everyone feel welcome and at home (and whenever possible **mirror** how events would run in local community)

## Cont'd...

Families are given genuine opportunities to:

- ▶ **Speak knowledgeably about their children** and hear how they can support school learning (through specific tools and tasks)
- ▶ Work from a strengths based asset model that allows teachers and families to have **high, yet realistic, expectations** for academic and social-emotional well being.
- ▶ Learn about and access community and school based supports as needed to **increase family efficacy**
- ▶ Be **equal decision-makers** and collaborators within the SPS system

## In alignment with Policy #4129

We are asking you to scaffold the policy and strengthen it by

- ▶ Incorporating language that Dual Capacity Framework as a Key framework to advance family and community engagement, and
- ▶ To partner with the Professional Learning Community to increase family efficacy and expand schools' capacity to effectively work with families' funds of knowledge.



## Cont'd

We, members of the PLC are committed to;

- ▶ offering training to build capacity for authentic and effective family engagement for every family.
- ▶ Holding monthly ongoing professional learning meetings.

# Conclusion

- ▶ “Family Participation is the leading predictor that supports student academic success regardless of family, race, socio-economic status, Ethnicity or cultural background”-Dr. Karen Mapp