

# FUSD Family Engagement Initiative

v.4 – October 20, 2016

## **California State Policy Context**

Involving parents and other family members in students' schooling experiences has been associated with improved academic outcomes. This is especially the case for low-income or otherwise disadvantaged children and youth. This correlation increases when family-engagement strategies are implemented alongside other school reforms. The relationship between engaging parents and engaging students in school is so robust—and makes such intuitive sense—that California included *parent involvement and participation* as one of eight priority areas in its newly established Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Including family engagement in an accountability system is unprecedented, both in California and nationally, and warrants research to understand how districts operationalize it and their plans for assessing their approaches. *(excerpted from "FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PRACTICES IN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS, Public Policy Institute of California, June 2016)*

## **Our Vision**

Every school is endowed with the leadership, structures, and resources to effectively engage all parents and guardians in their child's instructional program and in their school's decision-making process.

## **Our Goals**

1. Every teacher has a strong working relationship with each of their student's parent/guardian, focused on supporting student academic achievement.
2. Every student has satisfactory school attendance and no student is chronically absent from school.
3. Every student feels safe in their school and no student is suspended from school.
4. Every parent has access to multiple opportunities to be involved in school-level decision-making.

## **Our Proposal**

1. FUSD allocates \$3 million a year to schools to support their planning and implementation of culturally-responsive school-based family engagement strategies.
2. FUSD disburse funds to schools with a high enrollment of low-income students and English-Learners through a Request-For-Proposal process.
3. Each school that applies for funds through the Request-For-Proposal process shall demonstrate that the goals, strategies, evaluation measures, and budget of their proposed Family Engagement Plan are:
  - a. Developed by a collaborative school design team led by teachers, parents, and community partners;
  - b. Informed by professional best practices in family engagement (e.g. Academic Parent/Teacher Teams, Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project, Family Resource Centers, Attendance Works, Restorative Justice, Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports); and
  - c. Reviewed and approved by their School Site Council.
4. The implementation and evaluation of the FUSD Family Engagement Initiative shall be overseen by a citizens' oversight commission comprised of seven (7) individuals who demonstrate extensive knowledge in culturally responsive family/school partnerships, including parents, teachers, and community-based practitioners. The citizens' oversight commission shall be appointed by the Board of Education through a publicly-noticed application process.