

Reflection/Assessment Rubric for Parent Leaders and School Staff



Speaking Up for Every Child



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Use this rubric to focus on families and school staff as equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs. Think about where you see yourself in the process and strategies on how to improve advocacy practices by marking the box that most clearly matches what you are doing now. Schools that promote shared responsibility encourage collaboration between all parties involved in a child's education.

SPEAKING UP FOR EVERY CHILD			
ELEMENT	EMERGING	PROGRESSING	EXCELLENT
<p>Understanding how the school and district operate.</p>	<p>The principal provides all parents with information on the school's mission, goals, and organizational structure.</p> <p><i>For example, the school handbook is available in print and on the school website. It is also available in various languages as needed.</i></p>	<p>Parents and school staff collaborate to inform the school community about how the school and school district operate and the role of parent involvement in the school.</p> <p><i>For example, the PTA/parent group and school staff cohost a fall orientation where families can learn about programs for academic and social growth, tour the school, and meet the entire school staff. Interpreters are available.</i></p>	<p>The school district offers workshops for family members about school and district programs, policies and resources, and the skills to access them. The workshops are offered in various languages and locations in the community.</p> <p><i>For example, workshops are offered on parent and student rights under Title 1.</i></p>
<p>Understanding rights and responsibilities under federal and state laws</p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff distribute written materials about parent involvement mandates in state and federal programs, such as No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* and Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).**</p> <p><i>For example, information about each of these mandates is posted on the school's website with links to other programs related to these mandates.</i></p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff invite district staff to talk about parent rights and responsibilities under state and federal laws.</p> <p><i>For example, parent advocates help families understand the new federal laws under the Every Child Succeeds Act (2016)</i></p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff helps other families exercise their rights under state and federal education laws.</p> <p><i>For example, a parent group engages its members to use state and federal mandates to develop a Parent Bill of Rights.</i></p>
<p>Learning about resources</p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff group helps develop and distribute information about available programs and resources such as magnet programs in math, science, and Advanced Placement classes.</p> <p><i>For example, the school and parent group create a school handbook with academic resources that are available in all languages spoken in the community.</i></p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff meet at school and in the community to help families better understand students' options for extra academic support or enrichment.</p> <p><i>For example, a parent group and school cosponsor informational sessions on after-school and summer learning programs.</i></p>	<p>Guidance counselors, parent advocates, and teachers work with families to take advantage of resources and programs that support student success. They target families who may not know how to access these resources.</p> <p><i>For example, they work with families whose children are underrepresented in advanced classes to encourage their sons and daughters to take higher-level courses.</i></p>

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<p>Resolving problems and conflicts</p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff provide information to all parents on how to resolve problems at school.</p> <p><i>For example, a Guide to Identifying and Resolving Problems at School is developed and made available on the school website and in print, in appropriate languages.</i></p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff have a clear, written procedure for resolving concerns or problems.</p> <p><i>For example, a committee of school staff and PTA/parent group leaders is established to ensure that concerns have been addressed and that further action is taken if needed.</i></p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff jointly plan strategies to help parents, teachers, and students identify and resolve problems and conflicts at school.</p> <p><i>For example, conflict resolution classes are offered to help parents, students, and teachers learn effective ways to resolve conflicts at home and at school.</i></p>
<p>Smoothing transitions</p>	<p>Spring orientation programs cosponsored by the school and parent groups help prepare students for the next grade level or school.</p> <p><i>For example, an elementary school organizes visits to the middle school for parents and students, who are given an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the new environment and to ask questions.</i></p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff reach out to new students and their families before the next school year starts, offering an orientation to the school, opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities, and to meet other students and parents.</p> <p><i>For example, the PTA/parent group assigns “buddies” to new students and connects families to parent mentors.</i></p>	<p>A transitions program developed by school staff and parent groups helps parents feel connected and remain involved as their children progress through school.</p> <p><i>For example, informational sessions explain how expectations, standards, and approaches to teaching change from elementary to middle and high school.</i></p>
<p>Engaging in civic advocacy for student achievement</p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff help families learn about political issues affecting educations.</p> <p><i>For example, the PTA/parent group sponsors informational sessions on curriculum and assessment, teacher evaluation, new federal education laws, local candidate forums during election campaigns, etc.</i></p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff offer discussions on policy issues and organize families to testify at local public hearings on school needs.</p> <p><i>For example, the PTA/parent group invites school board members to give an informal budget briefing and holds a voter registration drive or provides informational sessions on curriculum and assessment, teacher evaluation, new federal education laws, local candidate forums during election campaigns, etc.</i></p>	<p>Parent leaders and school staff partner with other education advocates to mobilize school and community support around issues that affect student learning.</p> <p><i>For example, “parent café conversations” are held on the need for smaller class sized, after-school programs, or funding for a middle school science lab, resulting in families advocating for these improvements before the school board.</i></p>