

Compass Family Engagement Supports

Complementary ways to strengthen family-school partnerships, learning, and belonging.



Family Fun Nights

Focus: Welcoming, hands-on experiences that strengthen family-community relationships and support student learning.

Structure: Customizable themed events with ready-to-use learning stations, materials, and family resources.

Emphasis: Fun, practical ideas families can use beyond the event to support student success.

Themes Offered: STEAM Night, Math Quest, Health & Fitness, Family Reading Quest, and Uniting Hearts & Minds

Family Friendly Walk-Throughs

Focus: Strengthening partnerships by listening to families and staff to create welcoming school environments.

Structure: Shared perspectives, strengths-based feedback, and opportunities for growth.

Emphasis: A collaborative process that brings families and school staff together to identify strengths, address opportunities, and support meaningful next steps.

What Follows: Compass creates a report highlighting strengths and areas for growth and can partner with the school to support next steps.

Family Voice

Focus: Building strong partnerships among schools, families, students, and communities.

Structure: Belonging, shared responsibility, and student success.

Emphasis: A customizable process with multiple components that can be used individually or together.

Five Elements:

- Family Engagement Leadership Team
- Family Chat Qualitative Data Report
- Student Focus Group Qualitative Data Report
- DISC Assessment
- School Wide Professional Development

INTERNAL USE ONLY

The Foundation & Framework That Guide Our Work



Our approach is grounded in Dr. Karen Mapp's Four Core Beliefs and guided by the Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships.

FOUR CORE BELIEFS

The foundation of exemplary family-school partnerships

1

All families have dreams for their children and want the best for them.

2

All families have the capacity to support their children's learning.

3

Families and school staff are equal partners.

4

The responsibility for cultivating and sustaining partnerships rests primarily with school staff.

DUAL CAPACITY-BUILDING NETWORK

The framework guides how we build capacity with educators and families – not simply how we deliver activities.

1. CHALLENGE

Recognize barriers, past experiences, and gaps in strong family engagement.

2. CONDITIONS

Create relational, learning-linked, asset-based, collaborative experiences.

3. BUILD CAPACITY

Strengthen the 4 Cs for both educators and families.

4. OUTCOME

Effective partnerships that support student and school improvement.

PROCESS CONDITIONS

- Relational – built on mutual trust
- Linked to learning and development
- Asset-based
- Culturally responsive and respectful
- Collaborative
- Interactive

ORGANIZATIONAL CONDITIONS

- Systemic – embraced by leadership across the organization
- Integrated – embedded in all strategies
- Sustained – supported with resources and infrastructure

THE 4's WE BUILD

CAPABILITIES

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

CONNECTIONS

NETWORKS

COGNITION

BELIEFS & VALUES

CONFIDENCE

SELF-EFFICACY

Build capacity on both sides of the partnership so family engagement is relational, shared, and sustainable.

Dr. Karen Mapp | Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships | dualcapacity.org

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Which Family Voice Element?

Listen for the need — then choose where to start.

	Best For:	Choose When You Hear:
Family Engagement Leadership Team	Shared ownership, coordination, and sustained Family Engagement work.	"We need a team to lead this—not one person carrying it."
Family Chat Qualitative Data Report	Hearing families' experiences, strengths, concerns, and ideas.	"We need to hear directly from our families."
Student Focus Group Qualitative Data Report	Understanding students' experiences and perspectives.	"We need to hear what students are experiencing."
DISC Assessment	Building self-awareness, communication, and a stronger school culture.	"Our staff needs help understanding themselves and one another."
School Wide Professional Development	Building staff knowledge and practical skills for partnering with families.	"Our staff needs tools and training to engage families well."

Which Family Engagement Support?

Start with where the school is at right now — move them forward.

	Best For:	Choose When You Hear:
Family Fun Nights	Welcoming, hands-on experiences that strengthen family-school relationships and support student learning.	"We want more families to participate—and have a positive reason to come together." (Connection)
Family Friendly Walk-Throughs	When schools would benefit from hearing directly from families about their school experience and how they can improve.	"We want to know what families think about our school and how we can improve." (Family Friendliness)
Family Voice	Listening deeply to families and students, then using what is learned to strengthen partnerships and school improvement.	"We need to understand what families and students are experiencing—and act on it." (Partners in Shaping the Work)

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