School-Home Partnerships for Boosting Literacy
We are....

Moderator:
- Jennifer Hicks, Partnership for Children and Youth

Panelists:
★ Kate Young, Palo Alto Housing
★ Tedi Mills, Palo Alto Unified School District
★ Teneh Weller, High Expectations Parental Services
★ Brenda Castillo-Garza, MidPen Services
Today’s Learning Objectives

At the end of this presentation, we hope you:

Know: What to consider when beginning a school-home partnership around literacy

Feel: Encouraged with some ideas to engage families around literacy

Do: Develop action steps to take back to your community
Welcome

1. Review the KWL chart

2. Under the column “I Know” write down everything you know about School-Home Partnerships for Boosting Literacy

3. Under the column “What do I WANT to learn?” write down everything you want to learn
What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement is any way that a child’s adult caretaker (biological parents, foster parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.) at home, at school, and in the community, effectively supports learning and healthy development.
Why Family Engagement?
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The most consistent predictors of children’s academic achievement and social adjustment are *family expectations* of the child’s academic attainment and satisfaction with their child’s education at school.
Why Family Engagement?

The most effective forms of *family engagement* are those, which engage *families* in working directly with their children on *learning activities at home*. 
Families express a genuine and deep-seated desire to help their children succeed academically, regardless of differences in socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, and cultural background.
Why Family Engagement?

Three major factors of family engagement in the education of children:

- **Parents’ beliefs** about what is important, necessary and permissible for them to do with and on behalf of their children;
- The extent to which parents believe that they can have a positive influence on their children’s education; and
- **Parents’ perceptions** that their children and school want them to be involved.
Example: HOPE SF Goals

**School community** actively engages in strategies to support public housing families’ needs and school engagement.

**Residents** engage together in events and community building activities which promote safe and welcoming housing and educational settings.

**Parents/caregivers** actively engage in their child’s academic success, evidenced by increased:
- reading at home
- participation at school meetings, events, activities
- practices that support school attendance
Key Stakeholders Identify Their Roles

SCHOOL STAFF
Build strong relationships with families.
Build families’ capacity to support learning at home.

HOUSING SITE STAFF
Provide workshops on supporting learning at home.

CASE MANAGER
Refer families to services that support academic success.

FAMILIES
Set collective and individual goals for student achievement.
Housing Sites Supporting Academic Success

- One-on-One Case Management

- 1-5%
  - Parent education workshops
  - Home visits to develop Family-School Action Plan

- 10-15%
  - Community Campaigns/Events that build relationship and provide tools and resources for increased attendance and reading success
  - Parent education workshops (includes Family-School Action Plan)
  - Written and visual communication about how to support increased attendance and reading success (flyers, videos, newsletters, Facebook, Twitter, billboard)
  - Door-to-door visits to build relationships and offer tools and resources for increased attendance and reading success
  - Collaborating with service providers to align supports to families (Education Is Everyone’s Business)
1. Please pull out your KWL chart

2. Under the column “What did I LEARN about?” write down everything you have learned so far.
Family Reading Club Model

- How we got started and how it has evolved
- Learning Objectives: 3 E’s of reading--educate, encourage, empower
- Teacher-Service Coordinator Partnership: collaborative lesson planning
- Held monthly in the evening; engaging theme
- Students track their reading at home
- Parent confidence & feedback
Sample Family Reading Night Agenda

- Dinner served (family connections) & prize wheel
- Ice breaker (fun and light hearted)
- Pre-Reading activity (start focusing on theme)
- Read-a-loud & book distribution
- Model reading strategy
- Family engagement activity
- Take-home extension activity
1. What is one question you have heard from the parents in your community about their children’s education?

2. How might you start connecting with school personnel around this question at your housing site?
**Reading is relational**

**Strengths-based approach:**

School personnel as participants connecting home and school

Activities that build on-and celebrate-family expectations and strengths

How’s have you been? What’s new?

That’s super exciting! What happened?

We found these books we really love!

Have you heard of this author named Franciso Jimenez? We love his books so much. Last week...
Activities build from month to month:

January: asking “Why-” questions and responding with “because…”
February: talking about why the characters did what they did and why it matters;

March: finding information in a nonfiction book to say more about.
Outcomes of Family Reading Club

“I want to thank you so much for this amazing approach. You guys are working so hard for our families. The reading club is just amazing! We love it! My boys love it! And we loved the cooking book! We already tried two recipes. It is so much fun getting to do something new and healthy at the same time so the kids like to try it! Thank you very much for everything and will make sure to mark up our calendar to attend the next reading session!”

participant

Jaime & Bryant’s experience
Reflection Question

1. What do you know or what do you need to find out about the strengths of the families and students served by your program?

2. How could tapping into those strengths affect students’ success?
Reflection - KWL

1. Please pull out your KWL chart

2. Under the column “What did I LEARN about?” write down everything you have learned so far.
Ask yourselves the following questions:

- What’s our focus?
- What matters to our residents?
- What do we value as an organization?
- Why education/literacy?
How do you get started?

- What resources do you already have?
- What space do you have available to create a literacy program?
- Who are you connected to in the community? (Libraries, Schools, Volunteer Programs)

Incorporate literacy development into existing programming:

- Structured after school program
- Curriculum development with allocated literacy development time (Read Aloud, Group Activities, Individual)
- Staff development/training
- Pre and Post Assessments (Independent Reading Level Assessment Framework - IRLA)
- Family Engagement events with partners
**School Relationships**
- Building rapport with school officials
- MOU’S/ Data Sharing Agreements

**Attendance**
- Address areas of concern & provide on-one support
- Facilitate check-ins and action plans

**Academic Readiness**
- Provide homework assistance
- Track academic progress

**Home to School Collaboration**
- Establish a working relationship with teachers
- Identify issues and provide student-specific feedback

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<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
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<td>ASP Enrollment</td>
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Reflection - KWL

1. Pull out your KWL chart

2. Under the column “What did I LEARN about?” write down everything you have learned so far.
1. On an Index Card please write down the questions you have for today’s speakers.

2. Marisol from PAH will collect your card.
Think - Pair - Share - Act

Take a moment answer the following questions

- What are you currently doing around literacy?

- How could you incorporate additional literacy support in your community? What do you want? What do you need?

- What could it look like for you?

- Who are your potential partners? How could you approach them?

- When can I possibly start this work?

Turn and share
Take a Stand!

Head • Heart • Hands

What have you learn? • How do you feel? • What are you going to do?
Closing Thoughts

Thank you for coming (Kate)

Survey (Kate)

Call to Action (Teneh)
THANK YOU!

Staying connected with us after today

Jenny Hicks: Jhicks@partnerforchildren.org
Teneh Weller: teneh@highexpectationsonline.com
Tedi Mills: tmills@pausd.org
Kate Young: kyoung@pah.community
Brenda Castillo-Garza: bcastillo@midpen-housing.org