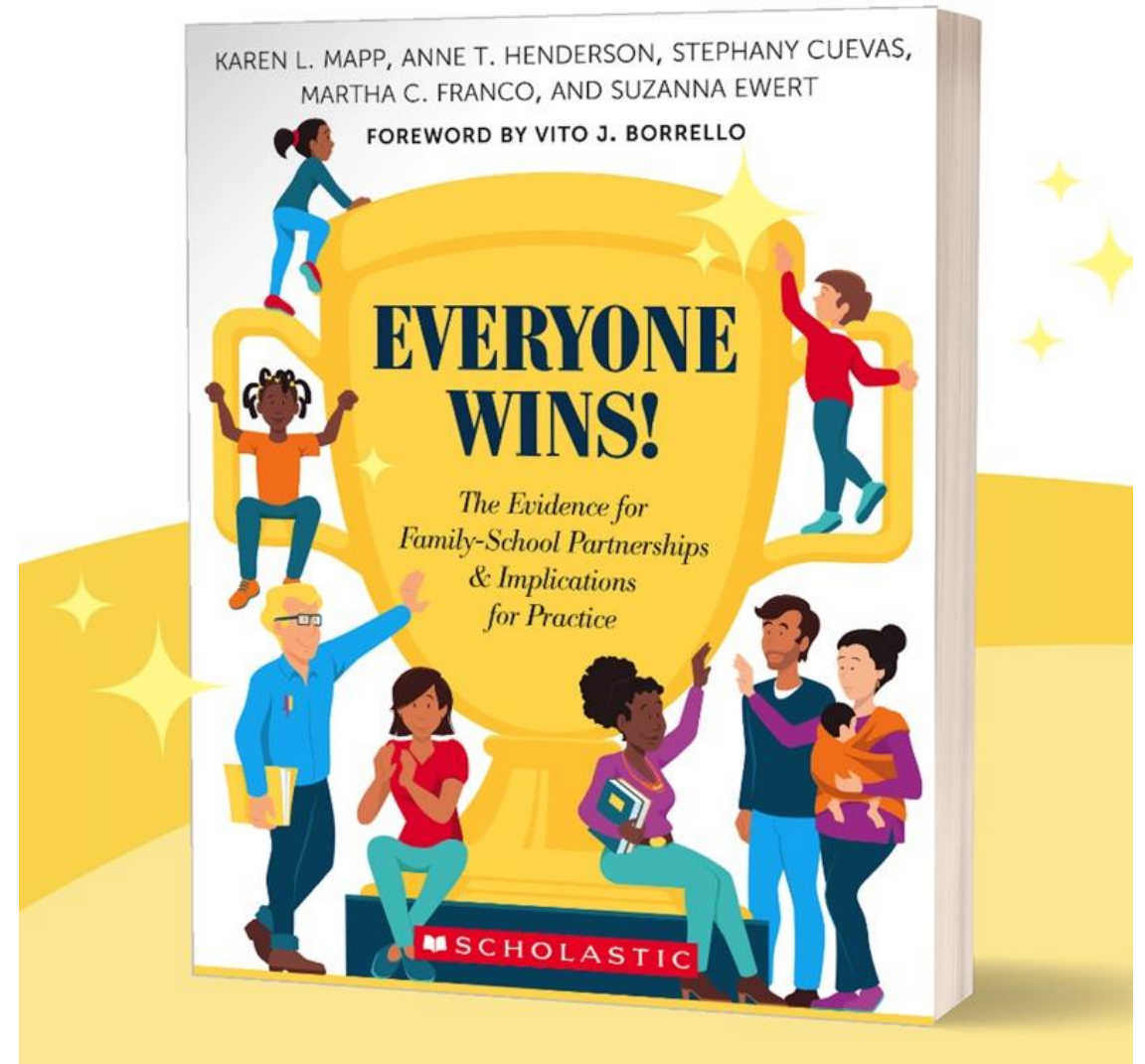


When We Partner, Everyone Wins!

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Karen L. Mapp, EdD
Harvard Graduate School of
Education



Agenda

- Defining Family Engagement
- Why is Family Engagement Important?
- The “Big Headlines” and Findings from “Everyone Wins”
- What Effective Engagement Looks Like: The Dual-Capacity Framework




Definition of Family Engagement

Family Engagement is a *full, equal, and equitable partnership* among families, educators and community partners to promote children's learning and development from birth through college and career.



Family *Involvement*



Larry
Ferlazzo,
author and
public school
teacher

“A school striving for **family involvement** often leads with its mouth—identifying projects, needs, and goals and then telling parents how they can contribute. A school striving for **parent engagement**, on the other hand, tends to lead with its ears—listening to what parents think, dream, and worry about. The goal of family engagement is not to serve clients but to gain partners.”

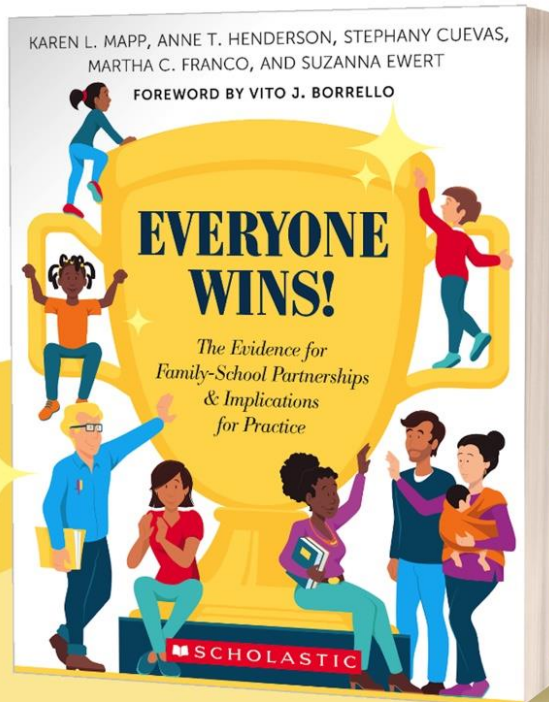
Why is
Family
Engagement
Important?



What percentage of the child's waking hours, from birth to high school, are spent at home and at school?



105,120 waking hours = 13.36
percent of waking hours are spent in
school by age 18. That means 86.64
percent of children's time is spent
out of school, mainly at home.



Everyone Wins! - Fifth installment of the *Evidence* series

20 years since the publication of *A New Wave of Evidence*

Selected 40 studies out of over 100 reviewed

Studies span from 2002-2021



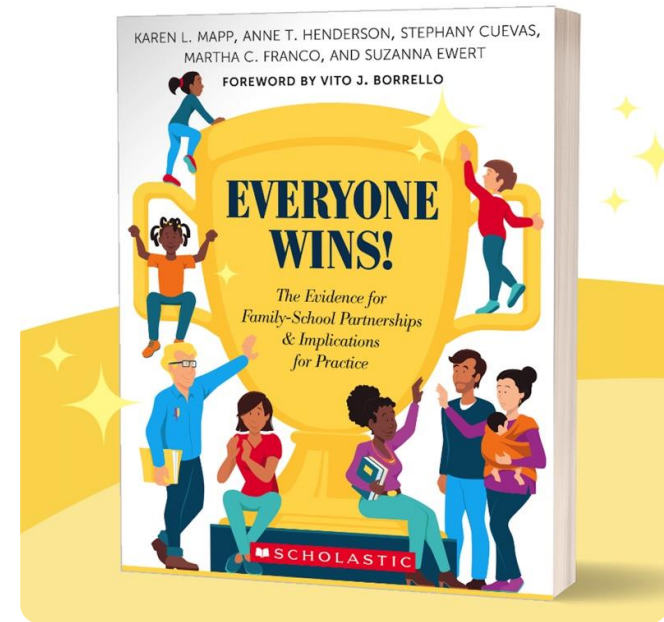
Extra! Extra!

Big Headlines
from our review of
the 40 studies



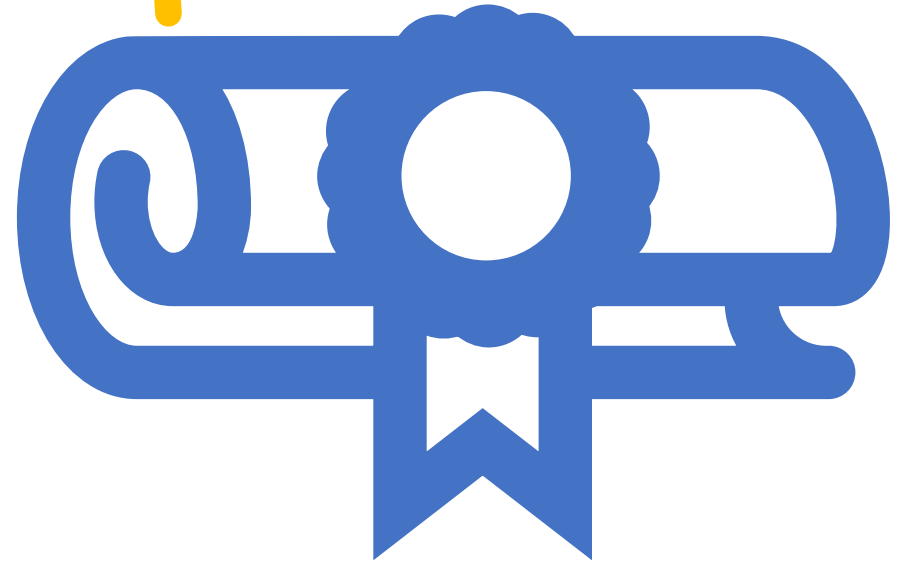
Key Findings

1. **Strong, trusting relationships among families, schools and communities lay the foundation for all other efforts to succeed.**
2. Authentic two-way communication is key to developing trusting relationships.
3. Family-school-community partnerships are transformative at the personal and institutional level.
4. Meaningful family engagement practice must be systemic and sustained.
5. When family engagement is a core value, it is a powerful equity strategy.



Wins for Students

- Higher grades and test scores
- Better attendance and engagement in class
- More positive attitudes and behavior
- Greater sense of efficacy and self-esteem
- Higher graduation rates and college/postsecondary attendance



Wins for Educators

- Shift from deficit-to asset-based thinking about students and families
- Increased multicultural awareness and appreciation
- Greater success motivating and engaging students
- More support from families
- Stronger morale and professional satisfaction



Wins for Families

- Stronger parent-child relationships
- Better rapport with teachers and school staff
- Greater understanding of child's progress and how to help
- More knowledge and skill in advocating for their child
- Increased deep and supportive social connections



A Parent's Perspective



F L A M B O Y A N
F O U N D A T I O N

A Parent's Perspective



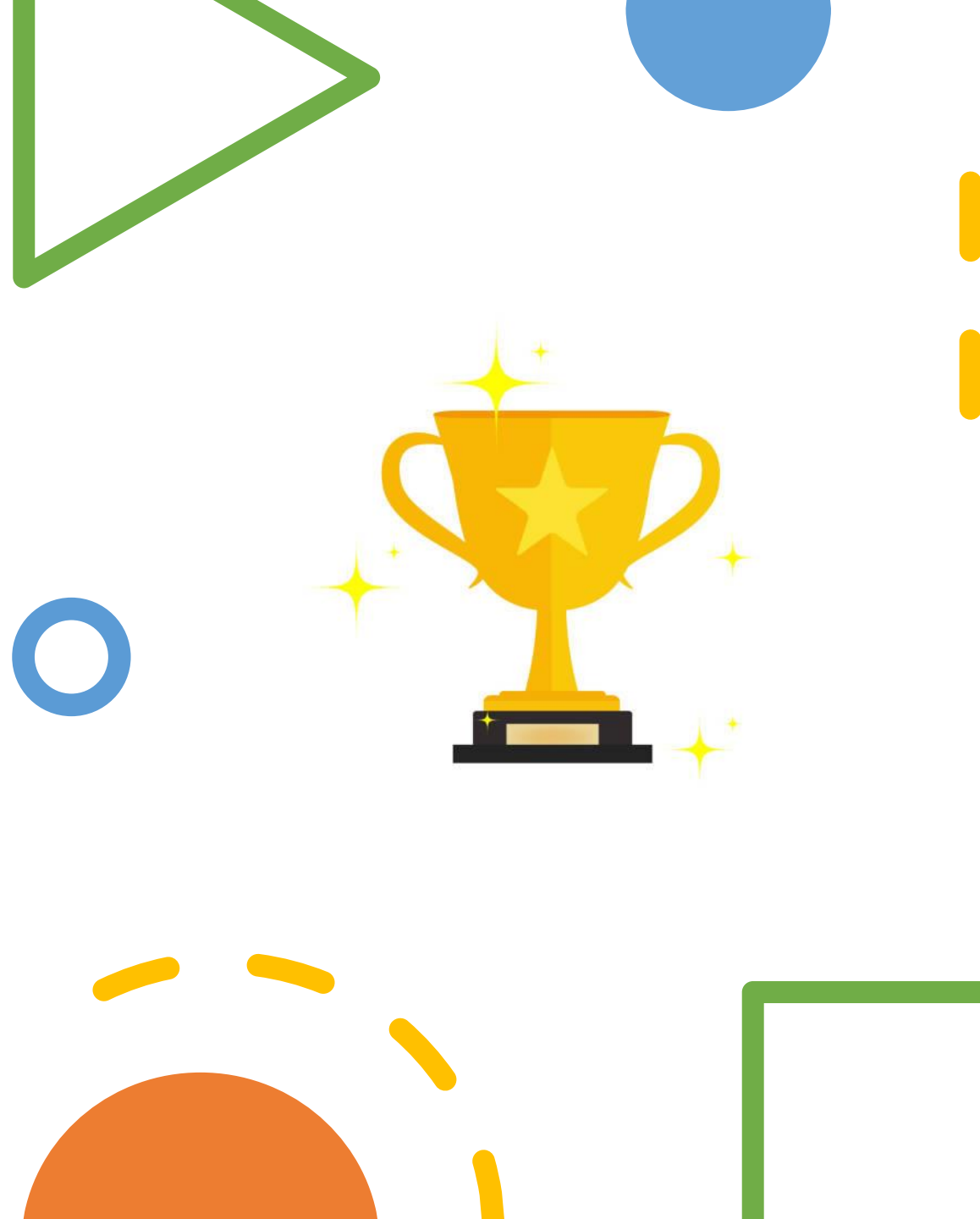
F L A M B O Y A N
F O U N D A T I O N

What did you hear from Ms. Kiah about the way that her relationship with Ms. Lucas impacted her?



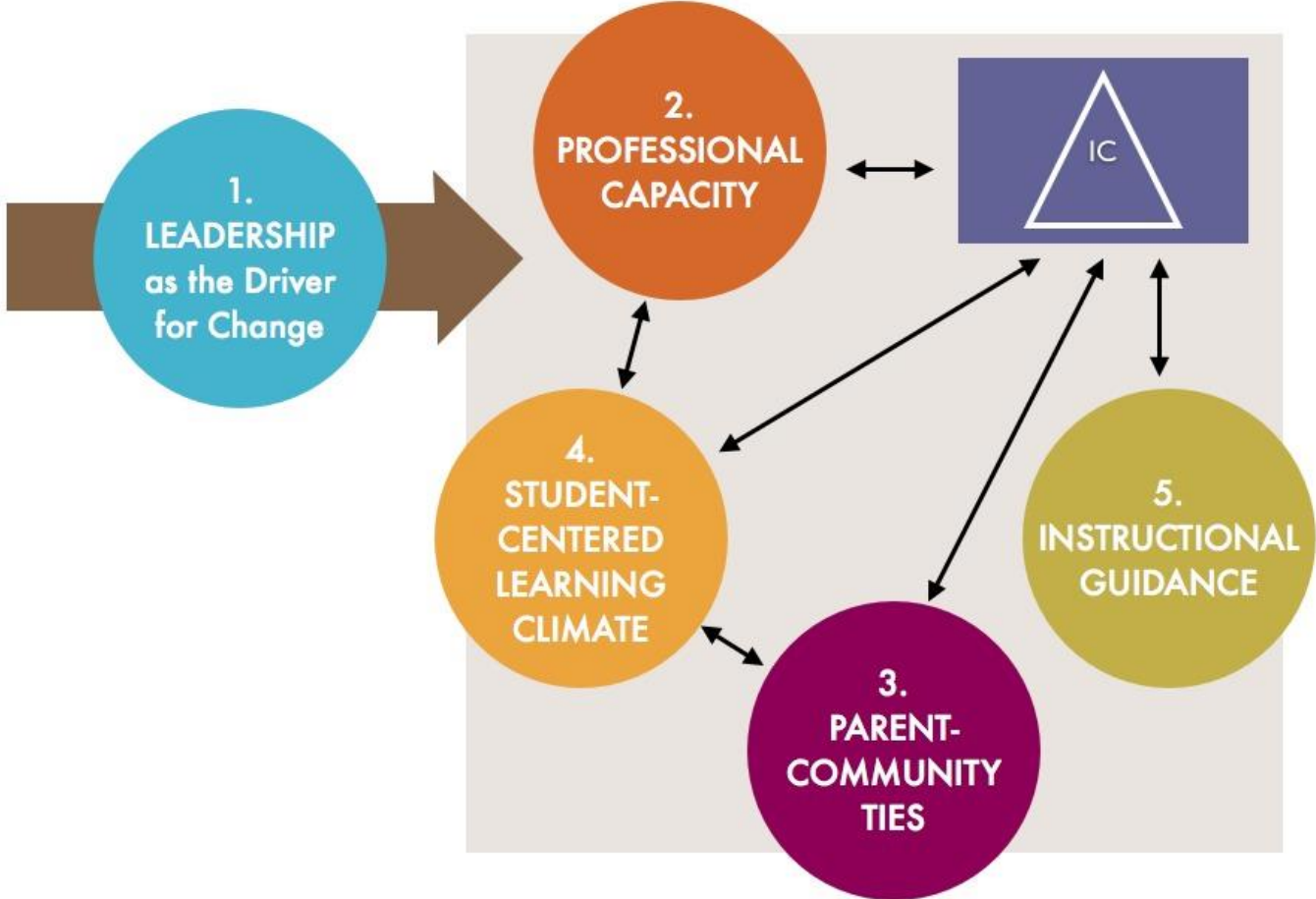
Wins for Schools

- More positive school climate
- Higher morale and greater retention of teachers
- Improved facilities, better curriculum, and higher-quality programs
- More responsive to community concerns
- Better reputation and more support from the community



FIVE ESSENTIAL SUPPORTS

The University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research



“Arguing for the significance of one individual support over another is tempting, but we ultimately came to view the five supports as an organized system of elements in dynamic interaction with one another. As such, primary value lies in their integration and mutual reinforcement. In this sense, school development is much like baking a cake...Without sugar, it will be tasteless. Without eggs or baking powder, the cake will be flat and chewy...if one ingredient is absent, it is just not a cake. “



Wins for Districts and Communities

- Reduced suspensions and high-risk behaviors
- Increased family and youth involvement in site-based decisions
- Expanded mental and physical health resources leading to improved health
- High levels of participation in afterschool programs
- Increased high school graduation rate

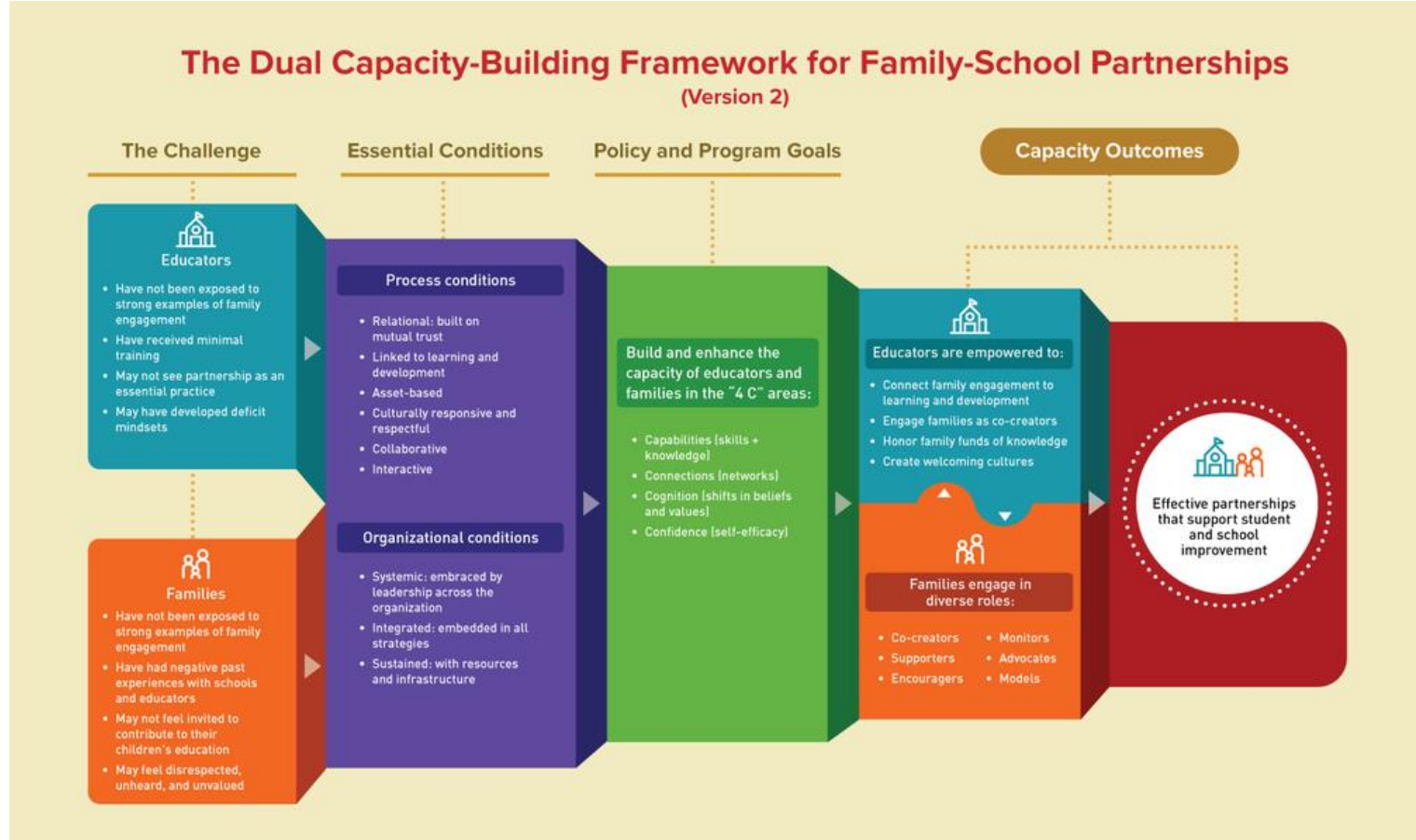


Emerging Themes Coming out of the Two Pandemics



- Relationships Matter! Schools and classrooms that developed strong relationships of trust with families prior to the pandemic:
 - found the pivot easier than schools that had not prioritized partnerships.
 - report smoother transitions and less-than-expected learning loss.
- Families know more, understand more, and do more than educators gave them credit for before the pandemic.
- Educators want and need capacity building on how to build and sustain effective partnerships with families.

The moment is meeting the *The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family School Partnerships*

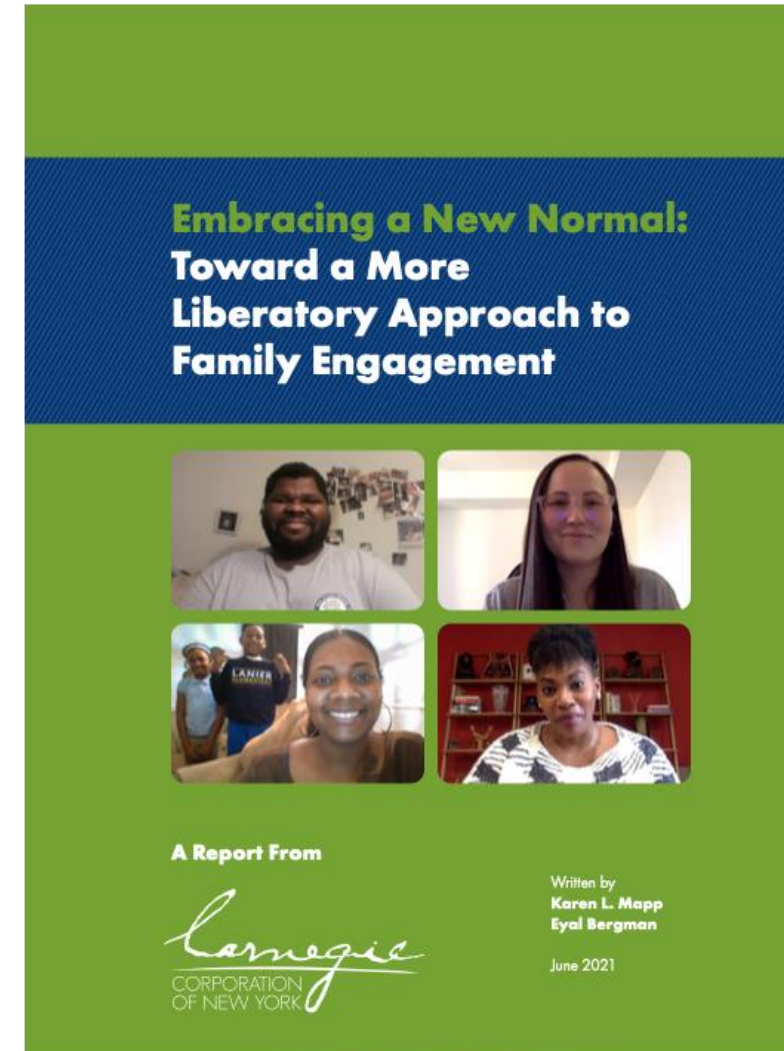


The New Normal of Family Engagement is:

Liberatory

Solidarity-driven

Equity-focused



The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)



The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships

(Version 2)

The Challenge



Educators

- Have not been exposed to strong examples of family engagement
- Have received minimal training
- May not see partnership as an essential practice
- May have developed deficit mindsets



Families

- Have not been exposed to strong examples of family engagement
- Have had negative past experiences with schools and educators
- May not feel invited to contribute to their children's education
- May feel disrespected, unheard, and undervalued



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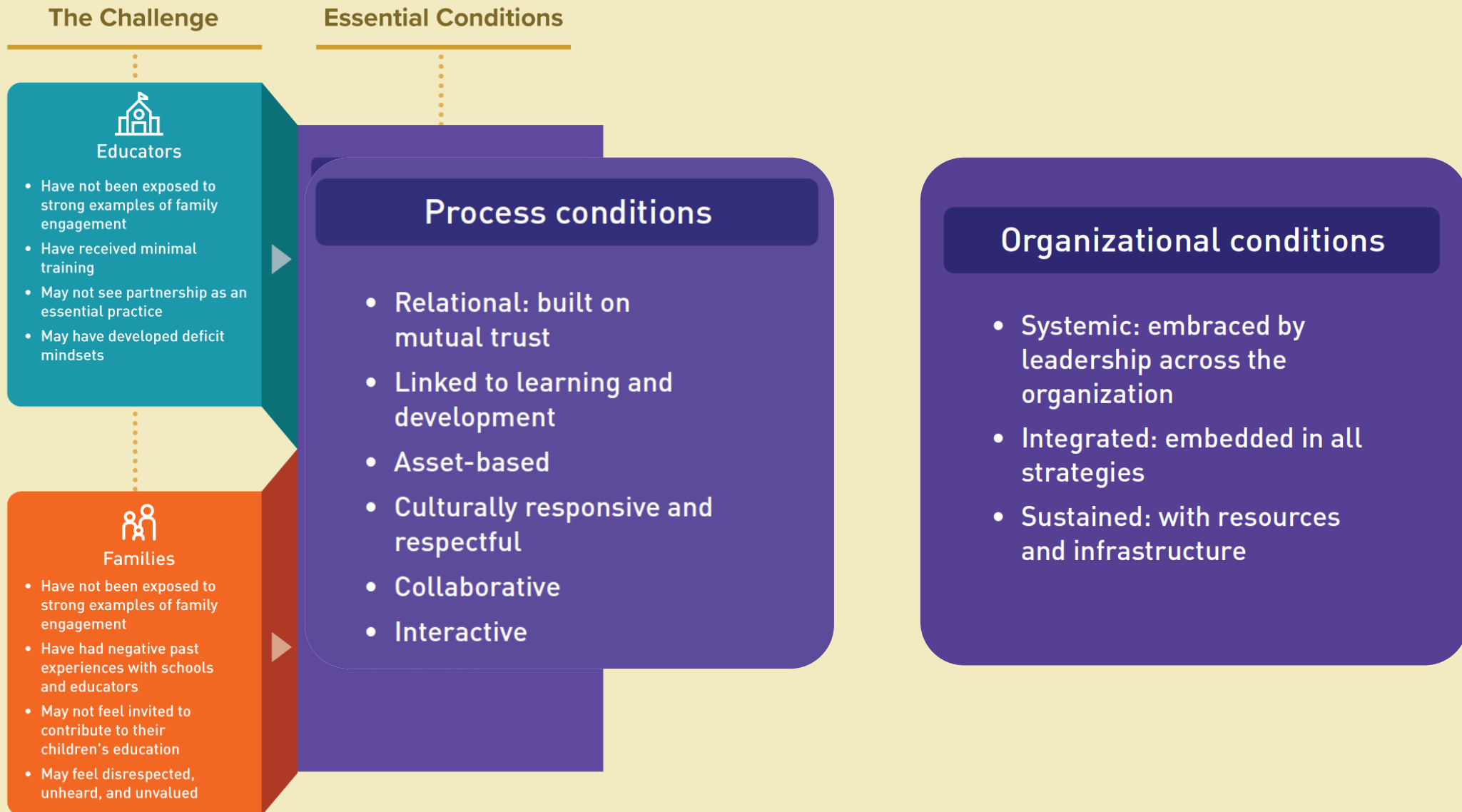


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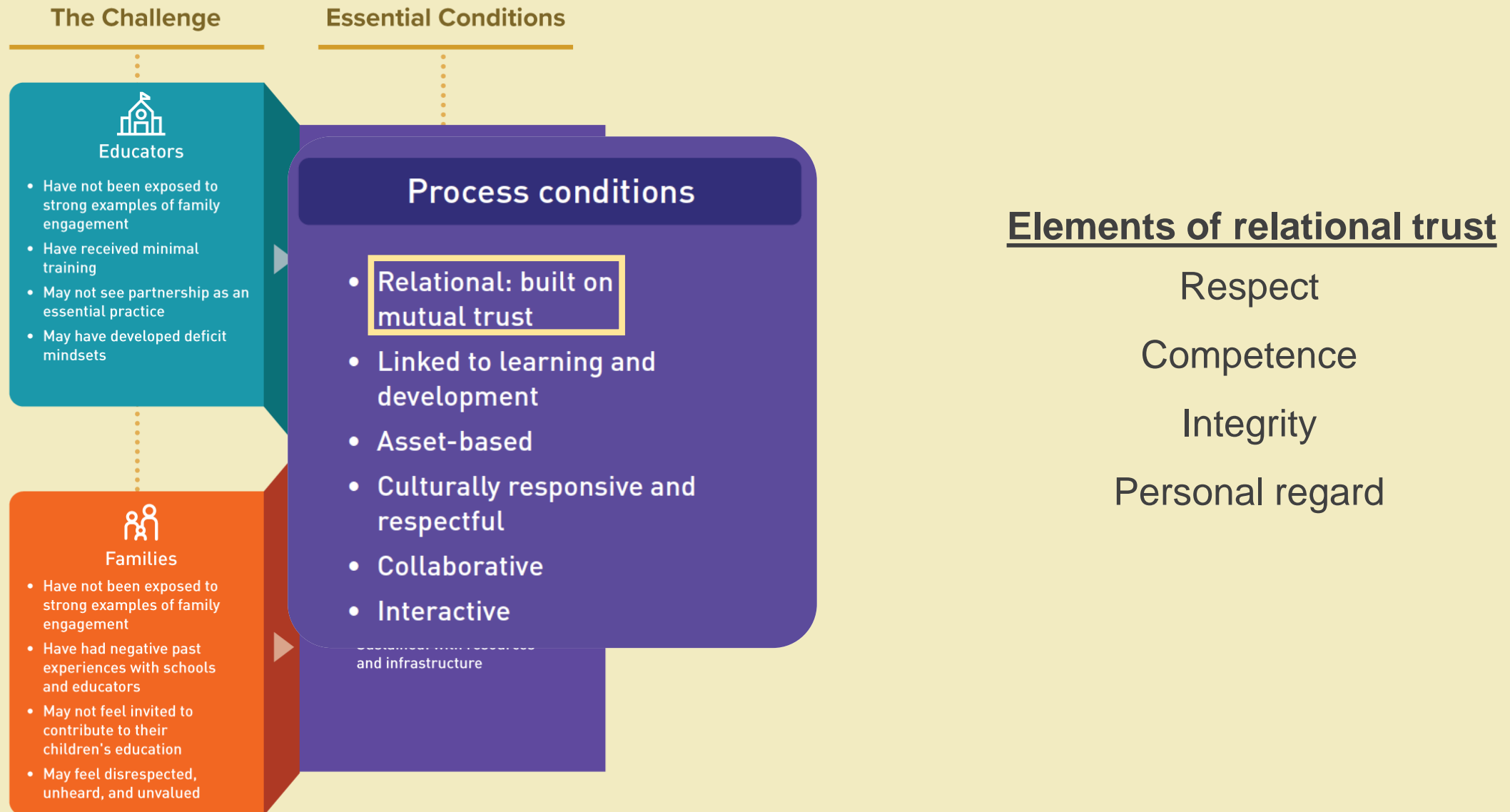
The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships

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Process conditions

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

Linked to
Learning/Development
Exercise

- List at least five events/activities that schools currently have for families (think across the entire school year)
- Circle the activities which fit the following criteria:
 - Families leave knowing more about what their child should know or be able to do (the learning/developmental goals) at that grade/age level
 - They leave knowing *how* (through practice) to employ a new tool or activity at home to support those goals
 - Families have had the opportunity to share shared learning strategies and knowledge about their child

The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships

(Version 2)

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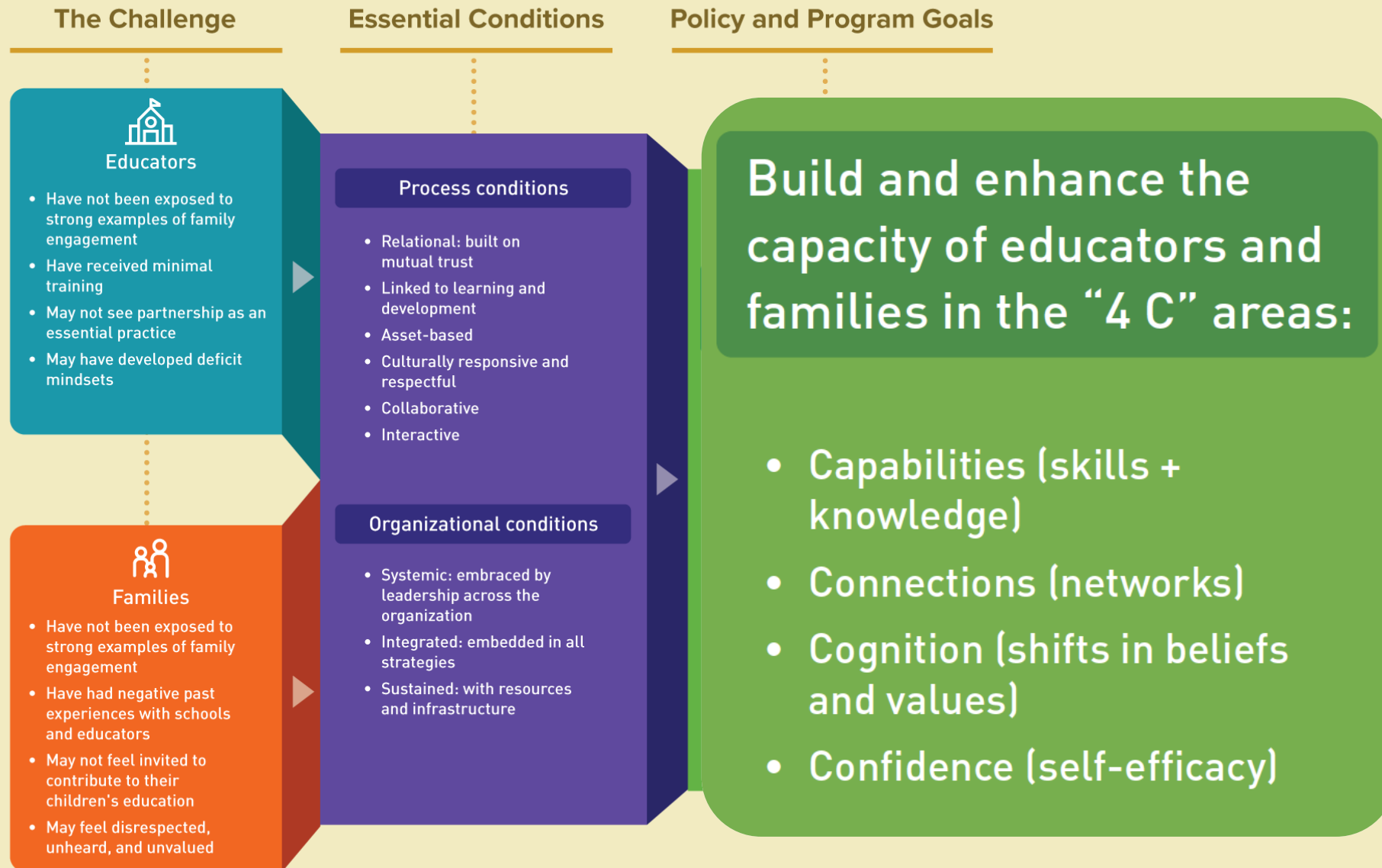
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The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)



Highlighting Richmond Public Schools, VA Engagement Initiative on Chronic Absenteeism

Family & Community Engagement

Students thrive when schools and families work together.

The Department of Family and Community Engagement is responsible for ensuring that RPS families have access to information, resources, and opportunities that allow students to flourish academically. Key priority areas include cultivating mutually-beneficial partnerships with community stakeholders, facilitating volunteer engagement, and collaboratively working to address engagement issues related to attendance and dropout recovery.



Community Hubs



Community Partnerships

Process conditions

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

Asset Based: Neighborhood Centered Model

Investing in developing relationships with neighborhood experts already embedded in our communities. Each Family Liaison has a neighborhood that they are deeply immersing themselves in. The Liaisons learn about the strengths, resources, and leaders in their neighborhood to better support families living there.



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: with resources and infrastructure

Daily Attendance Process: Moving from Compliance to Support

Teachers are our frontline! They record daily attendance in ASPEN and are the first people to connect with families to check on students who are absent. Attendance at its core about engagement and how we can meaningfully engage with our families.

School Response as Absences increase:

Days Absent What is happening?

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1-2 Days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers reach out to families and check on students who are absent |
| 3 Days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers refer students to the Communities in Schools (CIS) Coordinator or school staff, if additional support is needed |
| 5 Days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Liaisons meet with the parent/guardian to co-develop a Family Success Plan with specific actions steps to improve attendance. |

Family Success Plan

The screenshot shows a 'Family Success Plan' form. At the top, it has fields for 'Student ID', 'Teacher', and 'Date'. Below that, there are fields for 'Attendance Intervention Plan Title', 'Created Date', 'Last Meeting Date', 'Next Meeting Date', 'Parent Signed Date', and 'Exit Date'. A section titled 'TRACKED ABSENCES LIST' contains a table with columns for Date, Code, Reason, Comment, and School/School Name. Below this is a 'FAMILY CONTACT MEETINGS' table with columns for Date, Time, Type of Contact, Duration of Visit, Contact Used, Completed/Updated?, and Correspondence/Updated?. The 'PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION' section includes fields for Name, Phone, Email, and Address. At the bottom, there is a 'Parent Comments' section with a text area for notes.

Data Resource - Outreach Dashboard

Outreach Dashboard Overview:

1. All attendance outreach data is aggregated to this dashboard.
2. Division & school leaders are able to gain insight towards outreach efforts.
3. This allows teams to set measurable goals for home visits, phone calls, etc.

The Outreach Dashboard allows us to quantify the impact of successful attendance outreach.

Organizational conditions

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

All attendance trackers are connected to this dashboard.

First Name	Last Name	Roll	Book	Attendance	Work	Present	Excused	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other



Results by School

School Summary

64% (28/44) of schools decrease chronic absenteeism last year.

The school listed below showed the most significant reductions in chronic absenteeism. Using the Dual Capacity Framework as a blueprint, the division has created an Office of Engagement that has worked to reframe Attendance as an Engagement issue. Since this shift the division has reduced chronic absenteeism significantly.

		SY 21-22 Chronic Rate	SY 22-23 Chronic Rate	Year to Year Difference
Swansboro Elementary		39%	14%	-25%
Henry Marsh III Elementary		55%	33%	-22%
Overby-Sheppard Elementary		32%	11%	-21%
Chimborazo Elementary		34%	22%	-11%
Martin Luther King Jr. Middle		38%	27%	-11%
Bellevue Elementary		27%	18%	-9%
Fairfield Court Elementary		45%	36%	-9%

A shift from seeing
engagement as a **goal** to
engagement as a **strategy**.

Additional Support and Resources

- *Powerful Partnerships* (2017)
- Annual IEL National Family and Community Engagement Conference, May 2024
- Harvard Professional Education Institute - Family Engagement in Education: Creating Effective Home and School Partnerships for Student Success, November 2023
- National Association of Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
- Scholastic Workshop Series for district/school teams
- Learning Heroes School Leaders Training



Q and A

Thank You!

