

NEEDS ASSESSMENTS



Arizona State
PIRC
PARENT INFORMATION
RESOURCE CENTER

A program of the Chandler Education Foundation

WEBINAR #2 GATHERING & CONNECTING DATA TO FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

PRE-TEST EVALUATION

For each statement, please choose the number that describes what you think BEFORE this session:

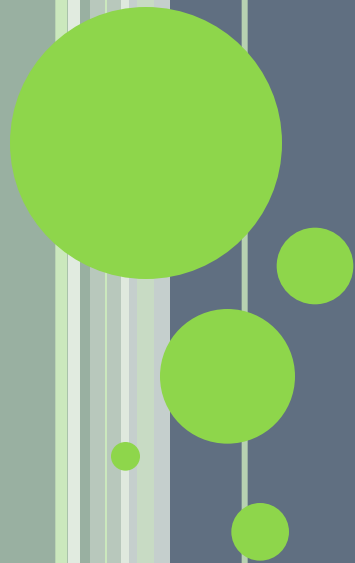
Please use this scale:

4= Strongly Agree

3=Agree

2=Disagree

1 =Strongly Disagree



WEBINAR OBJECTIVES



1. Establish an intended end-goal for family engagement
2. Outline the purpose of conducting a needs assessment
3. Design an assessment with targeted questions related to your school's/ district's needs
4. Provide strategies for collecting and disseminating needs assessment results



EFFECTIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Exists when it is:

- A shared definition and understanding of its meaning among all stakeholders
- Intentionally embedded into school expectations, classroom practice, and instruction
- Effectively supported with appropriate opportunities to expand the capacity of all stakeholders
- Viewed, not as the end itself, but a means to the goal of increasing student achievement



Strategize, Strategize, Strategize 

Wish List

- **Why do we seek to engage families in our schools?**
- **What would effective family engagement look like at your school?**

Consider...

- School and family communication
- School buy-in
- Community participation, and connection
- Shared responsibility for student learning
- Advocacy for education
- Welcoming school climate
- Collaborative decision-making





PURPOSE OF NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

- A needs assessment is a process for identifying gaps between current and desired conditions by collecting baseline data
- When designed and implemented accurately, the use of a needs assessment:
 - Assists in the planning process for addressing goals
 - Gathers multiple perspectives by including all stakeholders
 - Prioritizes action steps
 - Targets questions to examine opportunities for developing solutions



DESIGNING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Determine what you intend to measure
2. Design and write targeted questions
3. Decide on distribution, collection, and analysis
4. Outline a timeline for implementation of results



1. DETERMINING PURPOSE

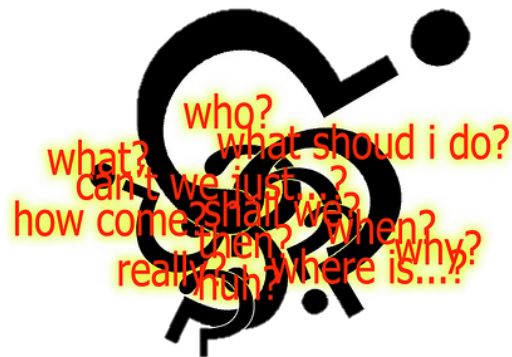
- **What specific results does your school seek in regards to family engagement?**
 - Establishing communication expectations for staff
 - Designing parent-teacher conferences centered on data
 - Securing family engagement specialists
 - Connecting with local businesses and organizations for joint initiatives
- **Start with your school's vision for effective family engagement and determine what type of information you seek out of the assessment**
 - Obtaining a gauge of school climate
 - Gathering feedback on changes
 - Measuring the effectiveness of current resources and techniques



2. DESIGNING QUESTIONS

Along with clarifying the “need” that will be addressed in your assessment, when determining questions establish clarity on:

- Utility – who needs the information collected and what for?
- Feasibility – how much can be done with the information gathered?
- Accuracy – what type of assessment design will lead to accurate information?



TYPES OF QUESTIONS TO UTILIZE

- Ensure all questions are:
 - Targeted
 - Relevant
 - Measurable
 - Easy to comprehend
- Closed ended – provide a quick and standard response
 - Yes, no
 - Multiple Choice
 - Ranking (Likert scale)
 - True / False
- Open ended – gather additional information, develops trust and free response



EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE QUESTIONS

Family Engagement Needs Assessment

Administrator Survey



The following administrator survey questions are a guiding template for assessing your school's current level of family engagement from the administrator's perspective. You are encouraged to modify this document by editing, adding, or deleting questions to meet the needs of your school and community.

1. Do you feel that family engagement is an integral piece to being successful as a school leader?

Yes

No

2. Do you feel that family engagement currently exists in your school?

Yes

No

3. If no, please indicate in the space provided below what you perceive to be the reasons.

4. If yes, please share provide examples of what family engagement looks like at your school.



EXAMPLES OF FEEDBACK QUESTIONS

PARENT PERSPECTIVE



2. Would you utilize a Parent Resource Center on your school campus that provided academic, health/social, extracurricular, etc. resources?

Yes

No

3. Do you think it is important for your child's schools to establish partnerships with local businesses, agencies, and faith-based organizations?

Yes

No

8. If the school provided information sessions on understanding student progress data, would you attend?

Yes

No

9. Do you feel informed about your school's improvement process?

Yes

No

10. If informed about the school's improvement process would you be willing to be involved in any of the following ways? Please circle one:

Member of the school improvement team	Information sessions regarding school improvement	Providing feedback regarding school changes related to improvement	Other
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PARENT INVOLVEMENT *Pencil it in!*



EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVENESS QUESTIONS

ADMINISTRATOR PERSPECTIVE



6. Are you held accountable for engaging families in your school?

Yes

No

7. Does your LEA/District provide support, guidance, and professional development to reinforce family engagement at your school?

Yes

No

8. Do you hold your school staff accountable for engaging families throughout the school year?

Yes

No

9. Do you provide opportunities for families to be involved in your school, including volunteering and decision making committees?

Yes

No

10. Do you seek to establish partnerships with local businesses and agencies to assist with meeting the educational and social needs of your students?

Yes

No



EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVENESS QUESTIONS TEACHER PERSPECTIVE

5. Do you make it a priority to communicate with your families throughout the school year in a positive manner?

Yes

No

6. Are you held accountable, by administration, for engaging families?

Yes

No



7. Do you feel that strategies and expectations for engaging families should be part of teacher professional development?

Yes

No

8. To connect families to their child's learning do you provide an outline of what their child should know by the end of the year?

Yes

No

9. Do you assist families with understanding student assessment data?

Yes

No

10. Do you assist families with utilizing student assessment data to assist with learning strategies at home?

Yes

No



3. DECIDE ON DISTRIBUTION, COLLECTION, AND ANALYSIS

- **Determine your target groups**
 - Administrators
 - Families
 - Students
 - Teachers
- **Assess challenges you may face in distribution and collection to determine a way around them**
 - Language
 - Return Rates
 - Access to phone/internet
- **Maximize opportunities to collect data**
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - School Events
 - Local Meetings



MAXIMIZING COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

- Focus groups may be an excellent approach to initiate your needs assessment process
 - Allows for open discussion with targeted groups
 - Provides opportunity to weigh multiple perspectives at one time
 - Can provide the start for a school team focused on family engagement
 - Participation can be incentivized
- When analyzing all data collected ensure to compare and contrast the perspectives collected on similar questions



ADDITIONAL DATA SOURCES

- Demographic data
- Teacher and school staff satisfaction surveys
- Parent surveys
- Family Friendly Walk Through assessment
- Parent attendance
- School event evaluations
- Data collected by other agencies



4. ESTABLISH A TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

RESULTS

RESULTS

The results of your need assessment provides a roadmap for intervention

- Outline the needed changes reflected in data collected
- Consider your current capacity in deciding on appropriate next steps
- Schedule for a implementation timeline that is realistic
- Utilize a team-based approach to draft an appropriate timeline



REMINDER: FUNDING FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

School Improvement Grant Integration

Section F– Budget

<p>Education Foundation Contract</p>	<p>PIRC Services, starting 2011-2012, school year as outlined in Slide 24 (*PIRC is willing to start work earlier, including planning sessions to outline scope of work, upon contract signing)</p>	<p>\$85,000/year (*the proposed cost is for a district with one school, each additional school will be an \$5,000)</p>
<p>LEA Initiatives Support for Parent Engagement</p>	<p>These funds are allocated for the hiring of a family engagement specialist. Funds should also be set aside for family engagement workshops materials, services and resources</p>	<p>Min. \$75,000/year</p>

Disclaimer: Proposed fee structure is in its draft stage, pending board approval, and subject to change



OUTLINE FOR CONTRACTED PIRC SERVICES

Service	Description
Family Engagement Coach	<p>A high-qualified, family engagement specialist that provides frequent, on-site school visits to facilitate the integration of family engagement at district and school levels, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Engagement personnel coaching• Customized professional development design and facilitation• Implementation of Family-Friendly Walk Through report results• Coaching on framework model selection and implementation• Guidance on family engagement workshops/events that are targeted and aligned to student learning• Assistance with community partnership brokerage
LEA Alignment/ Capacity Building	<p>Coaching on strategic planning for family engagement, including the development/revision of current policies, procedures, and goals – including developing data systems and evaluation integration for family engagement</p>
Data Systems and Evaluation Integration	<p>The development of needs assessment tools; design of progress monitoring system; re-design of teacher evaluations to incorporate a family engagement component; analysis of data collection</p>
Communication Strategies	<p>Assistance with developing/designing printed materials (brochures, newsletters, parent compacts, letters, etc.), family engagement section on website, and other templates as needed</p>



POST-TEST EVALUATION

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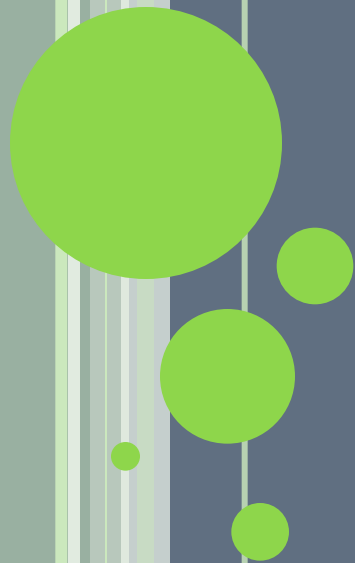
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Thank you!!!

PIRC CONTRACT SERVICES – FUTURE MEETINGS

May 4, 2011 – Flagstaff @ High Country

May 11, 2011 – Phoenix @ Desert Willow