

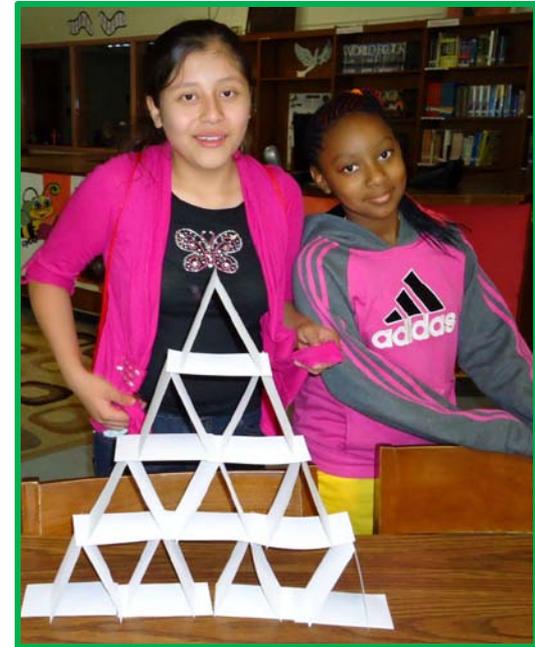


BUILDING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FROM THE GROUND UP

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AGENDA

- Why family engagement in afterschool?
- Our Story
 - Context
 - Timeline
- Best Practices
- Lessons Learned
- Q & A



WHY FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN AFTERSCHOOL?

Investment with short- & long-term gains

- Who benefits?
 - Youth
 - Program
 - Families
 - School



"If he sees me more engaged, he'll be more engaged."

Grandparent of a youth participant in 6th grade



OUR STORY



CONTEXT

Building Blocks	Barriers
Commitment communicated from outset	Transportation
Later program hours	Work schedules
Parent Ambassador	Language
Relatively small program (80 youth)	Perceptions
No PTA in host school	No PTA at host school

What building blocks or barriers exist for your program?

TIMELINE

Starting

- Identify parent ambassador (PA)/leader
- Make PA a partner in planning & implementation
- Family survey

Launching / Maintaining

- Monthly Newsletter
- Monthly FAC meetings
- Quarterly Center Events

Engaging

- Family role in scholar achievement plans, planners, high school placement
- Opportunities for program input



Center Director + PA = TEAM

BEST PRACTICES

- Families vs. "Parents"
- Learning community / partnership mindset
- Meet the family where they are at
- Communicate early, often & with multiple means
- Showcase the program
- Provide incentives



Follow through & be responsive!

Generate momentum & don't stop!

LESSONS LEARNED

- Don't get discouraged!
- You can never over communicate...
- Be willing to adjust course / change strategies



GOING FORWARD

- More workshops for families
- More/different parents involved in FAC
- Increased attendance at Center events
- Continue to move from mere participation to meaningful engagement



Q & A



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