

HIGH - IMPACT STRATEGIES OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Illinois Quality Afterschool
Special Topic Workshop:
**Creating Pathways for Lasting Family
Engagement**

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Today's Agenda

- Tap into your knowledge and experience
- Learn about new research on engaging families to improve student achievement
- Discuss high-impact strategies for engaging families in improving student learning

Why Does This Matter?



***IS THERE A LINK BETWEEN
FAMILY-SCHOOL-COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS AND STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT?***

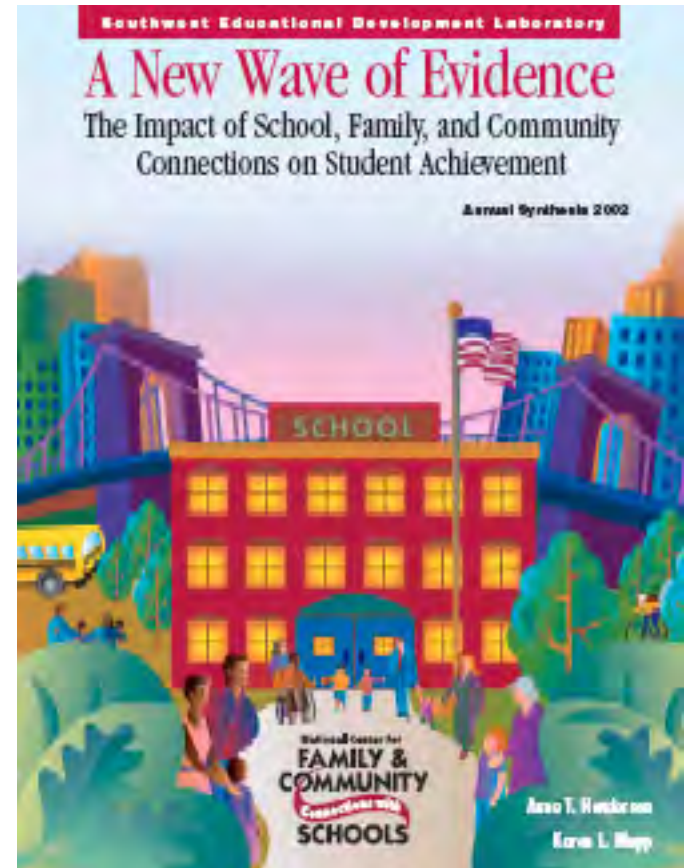


A New Wave of Evidence:

Family Engagement Has a Powerful Impact on Student Achievement

By Anne T. Henderson
and Karen L. Mapp

www.sedl.org/connections



If Families are Engaged, Students from All Backgrounds Tend To:

- ❑ Earn higher grades and test scores
- ❑ Enroll in higher-level programs
- ❑ Be promoted and earn credits
- ❑ Adapt well to school and attend regularly
- ❑ Have better social skills and behavior
- ❑ Graduate and go on to higher education

Overall Finding:

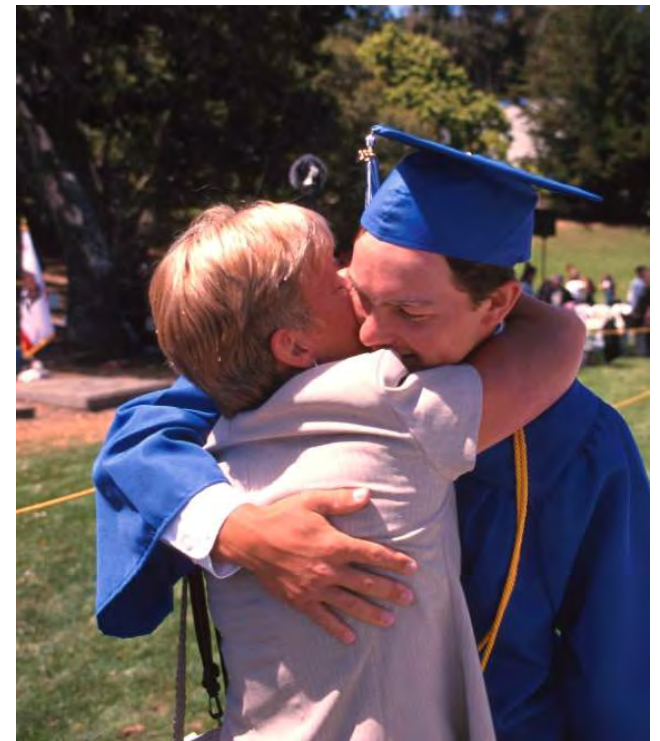
When families are engaged at home and at school:

- Children do better in school and
- Schools get better, all the way through high school.



Family Engagement is Protective

The more families can be advocates for children and support their progress, the better their children do, and the longer they stay, in school.



A New Wave of Evidence, 2002

Discussion

WHAT DO PARENTS NEED TO KNOW AND DO TO ENSURE THEIR CHILDREN GET INTO COLLEGE OR A QUALITY POST-SECONDARY PROGRAM?

What does a parent advocate do?

1. Sets high expectations and monitors progress
2. Helps child set goals and plan for future
3. Guides child through the system and steers toward classes that match goals
4. Intervenes if student has problem and gets help as needed
5. Monitors out of school time
6. Speaks out for other students and parents



School Practices are KEY

The strongest, most consistent predictors of whether parents are involved at home and school are the specific school programs and teacher practices that encourage and guide parents to become involved.

Dr. Joyce Epstein
Johns Hopkins University



News Flash



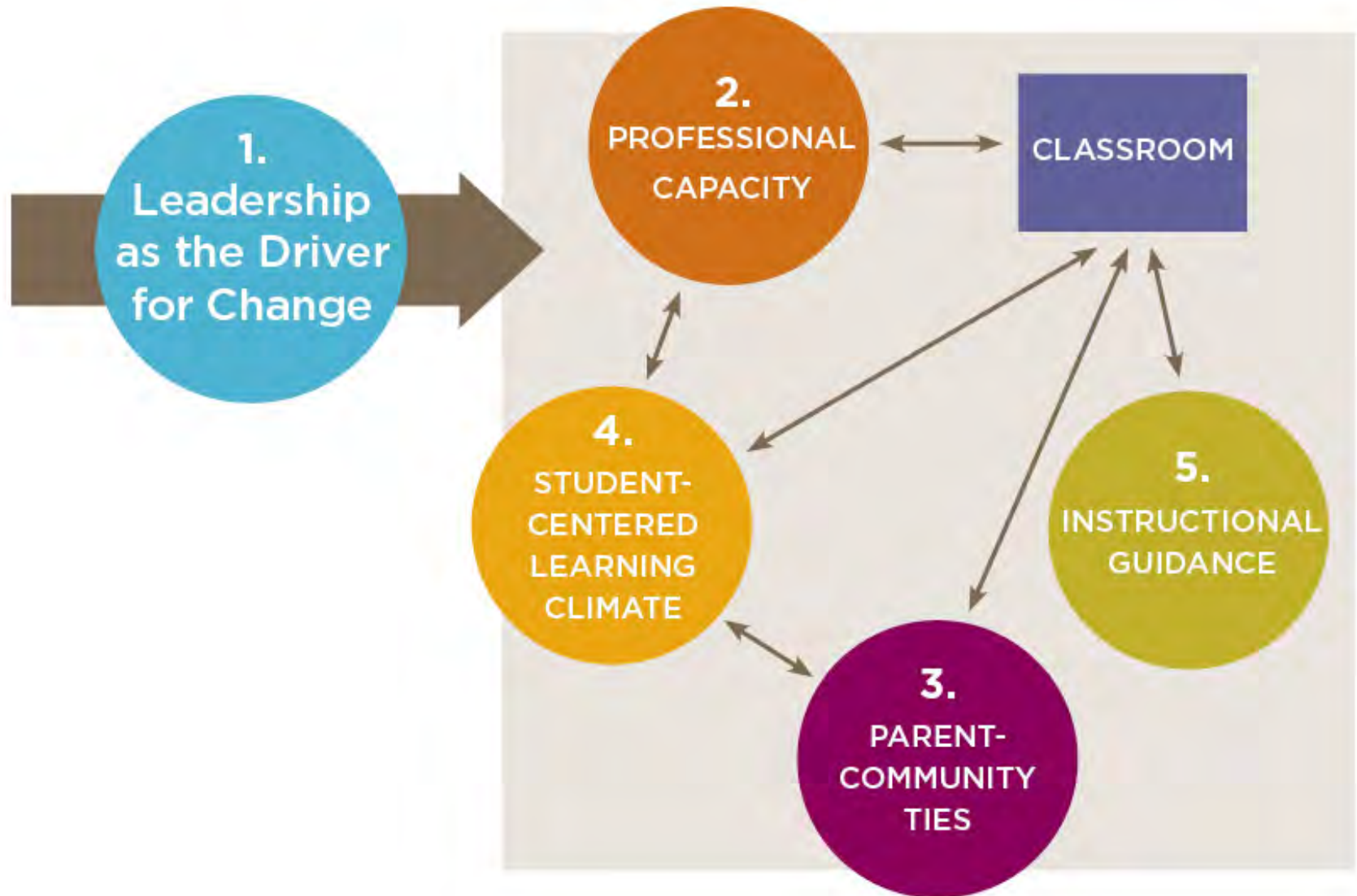
Important new studies
reveal *high-impact*
strategies

Organizing Schools for Improvement

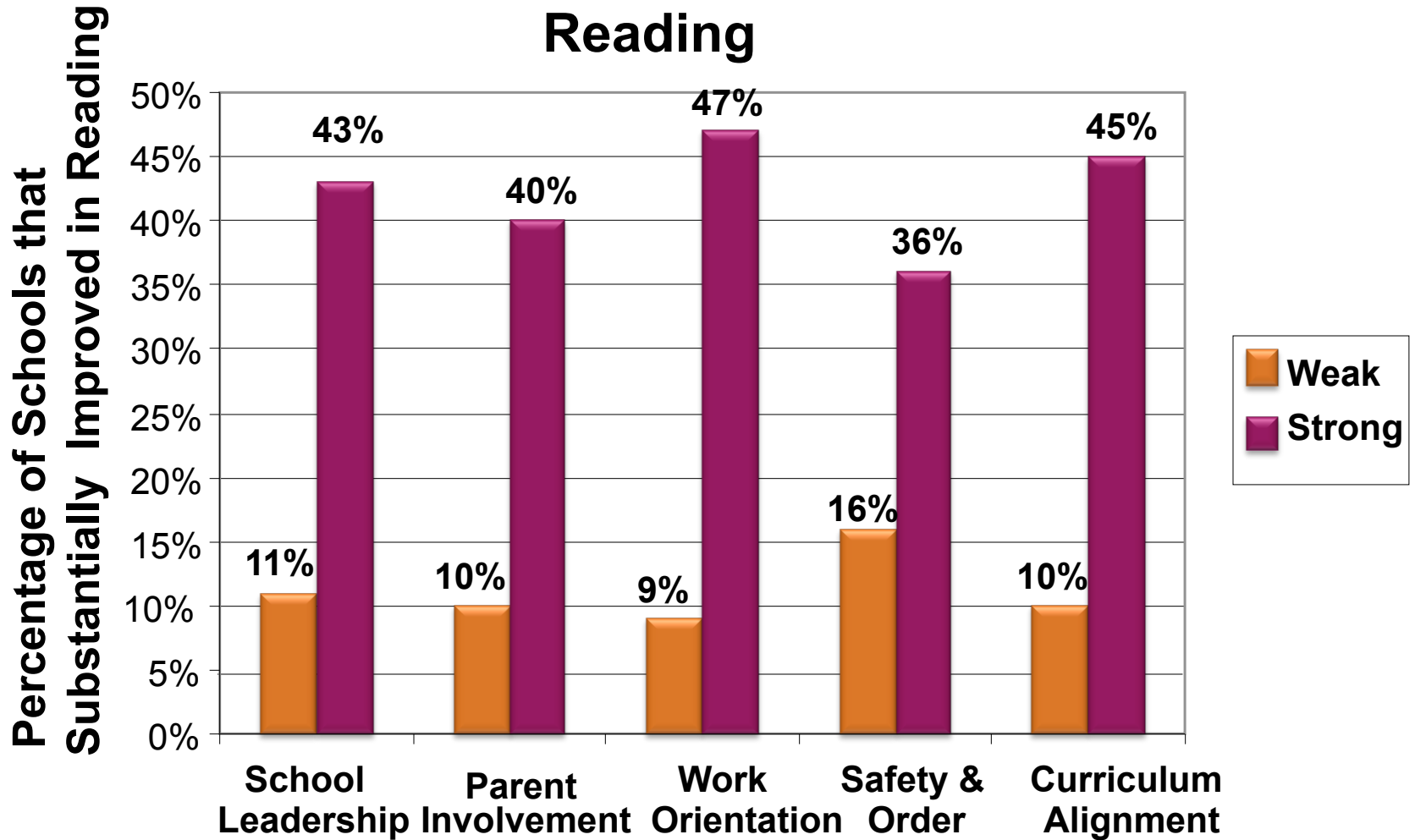
- Long-term study of Chicago schools found five essential supports for school improvement.
- Without all five, schools were substantially less likely to make gains.
- The presence of *strong family and community ties* made it much more likely that students would make significant math and reading gains.

Anthony S. Bryk et al, (2010) *Organizing Schools for Improvement: Lessons from Chicago*
(Chicago: University of Chicago Press)

Framework: Five Essential Supports



How Likely Is Major Improvement, Given Weak or Strong Supports



What did they measure?

- **Teachers' ties to community:** Understand local issues, spend time in community, use local resources.
- **Teacher outreach to parents:** Invite parents to observe in class, try to understand parents' concerns, and embrace parents as partners.
- **Parent response:** Become involved in school activities and respond to teacher concerns about schoolwork.

News Flash



Community Schools
Programs can ***connect***
Families and Schools in
High-Impact Ways

Corwin MS 21st Century CLC/Pueblo

- Informal + structured communication
- P-T conferences linked to afterschool family night; dinner with teachers
- “Community advocates” made home visits, linked families to resources
- Advocates helped students and families “work things out” with school.

RESULTS: Parents’ attendance at conferences went from 23% to 90%. Students improved attendance, behavior, attention to schoolwork.

Keys to Powerful Partnerships

Building Relationships



Linking to Learning

Addressing Differences

Elmont HS After School/Nassau NY

- Parents and teachers design academic intervention plans for each student
- Afterschool program offers personal support for class work
- Teachers tailor instruction to students' needs
- Program staffed by teachers in school

RESULTS: 100% students of color --
graduation rate = 94%; state average = 80%.
49% earn advanced Regents' Diploma.
90% attend college.

Keys to Powerful Partnerships

Building Relationships



Linking to Learning

Addressing Differences

Henriquez Community School/NYC

- Full-time parent coordinator offers education classes for parents (e.g. GED, citizenship, financial literacy, ESL)
- Leadership training for parents, learn how to navigate system, advocate for self and students
- Afterschool program coordinated with school classes, enhanced support structure

RESULTS: Students made significantly greater academic and behavior gains compared to comparable students in regular schools.

Effective Strategies

- ❑ Provide safe space for families and school staff to connect
- ❑ Build a sense of community
- ❑ Focus partnerships on improving student outcomes
- ❑ Develop individualized plans with families
- ❑ Communicate often about student progress and how to address child's learning interests + needs
- ❑ Build family capacity to participate

Beyond the Bake Sale

The Essential Guide to Family- School Partnerships

Anne T. Henderson, Karen L.
Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson and
Don Davies

The New Press, 2007



NAFSCE: Join Us!

What will the National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement offer?

- A website filled with information about the field
- Opportunities to network
- Communities of practice
- Professional development
- Advocacy for better policy and more resources

To learn more, go to: www.nafsce.org



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