

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOLS: STRATEGIES TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

FACT  
SHEET

This Fact Sheet complements the *Family Engagement with Schools: Strategies to Build Partnerships* video, produced by Formed Families Forward, partner to the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS) project.

The video focuses on the six components of family engagement in multi tiered systems: positive relationships, empowering families, leadership, data based goals and outcomes, multi-dimensional communications and multi tiered supports, and collaborative problem solving.



## POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

A good working relationship focuses both families and schools on the needs of students. Educators recognize family needs and honor family strengths and cultures, leading to greater understanding, respect, and trust.

- Get involved and meet people at school
- Be proactive to build relationships at school
- Take opportunities to help with events
- Encourage all family members to take an active role
- Engage with schools with an open mind



## EMPOWERING FAMILIES

Families are empowered to partner with schools and learn how to actively support their children's success at school. Schools seek out and promote opportunities to learn together and build families' knowledge, skills, and efficacy for supporting their students.

- Keep asking questions
- If you feel unwelcome, talk to administrators
- Help find ways to engage more with families



## LEADERSHIP

Strong schools unite families and school staff in shared leadership and decision making. Effective school leaders support family engagement through explicit vision, mission, goals, and dedicated resources.

- Get involved with decision making at school
- Get involved with advisory committees



## DATA BASED GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Schools and families work together to set engagement goals that are based on school and student data. Information and insights from families help inform and improve outcomes.

- Help tell a story behind data
- Take surveys to help implement change
- Use data from surveys to guide improvement



## MULTI- DIMENSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND MULTI-TIERED SUPPORTS

Communication between schools and families takes many different forms. Strategies to meaningfully engage families and students may look different across the tiers of supports.

- Meet face to face first
- Get involved and advocate for your child
- Invest time when students need more support



## COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

Families are partners in effective problem solving to meet the needs of students who require more supports, particularly those receiving services at Tiers 2 and 3.

- Share information that builds understanding
- Make a trusting connection at school to make progress
- Work toward shared goal of student success
- Stay focused on student success