

Outreach Strategies for Breaking Barriers *Rompiendo Barreras*

IDENTIFYING WAYS TO IMPROVE
FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

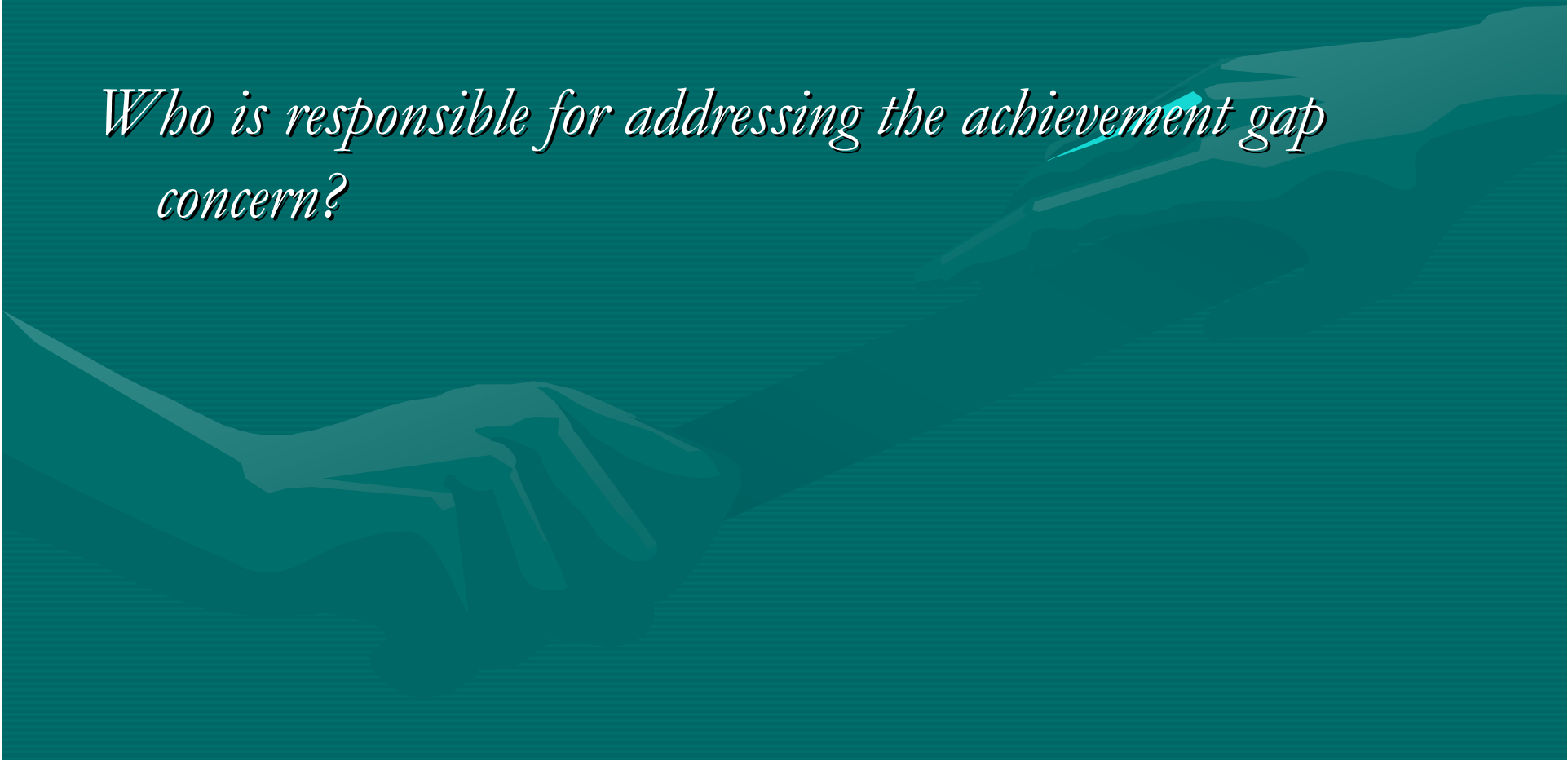
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OUTCOMES


- By the end of this session participants will have:
 - Learned about some effective measures for improving outreach to ELL families.
 - Identified one outreach and family engagement challenge in your school
 - Established some action steps towards addressing this challenge.

It takes a village...

Who is responsible for addressing the achievement gap concern?



Research shows that there is a definitive link between family involvement in a child's education and achievement in school.

A faint, semi-transparent illustration of a hand holding a child's hand is visible in the lower-left quadrant of the slide, serving as a background element.

What Research Says

- The impact of family involvement leads to:
 - Higher grades and test scores on standardized tests
 - Enrollment in more challenging academic programs
 - Better attendance and earned credits
 - Better social skills and adaptation to schools
 - Graduation and postsecondary education

Henderson, A.T; Mapp, K.L. (2003) *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family and Community Connections on Student Achievement*

What Research Says

“Most families, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture or income, care about their children’s future and do what they can do to support them”

*Fan, 2001; Goldenberg, Gallimore, Reese & Garnier, 2001;
Halle, Kurtz-Costes & Mahoney, 1997; Mapp, 1999*

*Diversity, School, Family and Community Connections, a research
synthesis*

What Research Says

“ Families of *all* cultural backgrounds, education, and income levels can, and often do, have a positive influence on their children’s leaning”

*Ho Sui-Chu & Willms (1996), Shaver & Walls (1998),
Dryfoos (2000), Clark (2002)*

*A New Wave of Evidence: the Impact of School, Family and
Community Connections on Achievement, a research synthesis*

What Research Says

“If given opportunity and appropriate supports,
they will do even more.”

*(Aspiazu, Bauer, & Spillett, 1998; Johnstone & Hiatt, 1997;
Lopez & Cole, 1999; Starkey & Klien, 2000)*

*Diversity, School, Family and Community Connections, a research
synthesis*

Best Practices: Three Key Elements to Effective Family Involvement

- Communication
- Participation
- Governance

Marzano, R. (2000) *What Works in Schools
Translating Research into Action*

What is Family Involvement?

- Volunteering
- Attending meetings
- Attending parent conferences
- Participating in the PTA
- Coming to school events
- Participating in school decision making
- Taking an active role in child's education

The single most effective family involvement in student achievement is:

- Taking an active role in the child's education

Efficacy in Family Involvement

- Holding to high expectations
- Involvement in educational planning
- Discussion of higher education with child
- Helping child prepare for the future
- Providing for learning activities outside of school
- Creating a home environment that encourages learning

Programs and interventions that engage families in supporting their children's learning at home are linked to higher achievement

*-Southwest Educational
Development Laboratory*

Breaking Barriers

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- What are some barriers to promoting efficacy in family involvement?
 - Language
 - Culture
 - Education
 - Time
 - Economy

Breaking Barriers

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- Language: Interpreters/translators
- Culture: Cultural Competency Training (on-going)
- Education: Education
- Time: Creativity in Planning
- Economy: Care, Share, Connect

Breaking Barriers: Effective Measures for Promoting Efficacy in Family Involvement

- Identify the challenges
- Form a Team Partnership
- Establish Goals and Outcomes
- Devise a plan for reaching the goals/outcomes
- Rewrite the plan when it doesn't work!
- Move forward! Repeat the process once challenges are met.

Effective Measures for Promoting Efficacy in Family Involvement

- Action Step 1: Identify an Outreach Challenge
 - Choose a challenge that is connected to one family, group of families or a whole school challenge.
 - Do not take on more outreach challenges than you can handle at one time.

Effective Measures for Promoting Efficacy in Family Involvement

- Action Step 2: Form a Team Partnership
 - Involve the administration/leadership in your school
 - Identify bilingual and non-bilingual staff members and or central office staff who can work with you.
 - Identify parents who are willing to help.
 - Identify community members or organizations willing to help

Effective Measures for Promoting Efficacy in Family Involvement

- Action Step 3: Establish a goal or outcome
 - The goal you set to accomplish must be connected to the challenge you hope to overcome.
 - Outcomes should be established based on targeted parent involvement needs for your school

Effective Measures for Promoting Efficacy in Family Involvement

- Action Step 4: Devise a plan to achieve your desired outcome(s).
 - It is absolutely essential to be persistent.
 - Research shows that most school action plans fail because of lack of persistent and consistent follow through (Marzano).
 - If plan A doesn't work devise a plan B!

Effective Measures for Promoting Efficacy in Family Involvement

- Evaluation:
 - Establish a criteria by which you will measure your progress.
 - How will you know your plan is working and effective in achieving the goal?

Effective Measures for Promoting Efficacy in Family Involvement

- Action Step 5: What do you do once your goal is achieved?
 - Begin the process again!

Suggestions from MCPS Successes

- Parent Meetings that offer practical ideas for supporting school success at home (language interpreters).
- Provide child care/learning activities for children
- Phone trees (involved bilingual parents or students earning SSL hours make calls)
- Offer food!
- Form a core group of parents- “Padres Estrellas”
 - Find out what the problems/needs are in the community
 - Ask them how you can get others involved
 - Get them to help you

Suggestions from MCPS Successes

- Use games, fun activities to get parents involved.
- Team effort: Linkages to Learning, Parent Community Coordinator, ESOL Counselor, Community Organizations (Latino Network)
- Use community resources.

Some people see a closed door and turn away.

Others see a closed door, try the knob, and if it doesn't open, they turn away.

A rare few see a closed door, try the knob and if it doesn't open, they find a key...

*If the key doesn't fit, they make one.
(author unknown)*

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network-of-educators](http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/fine-family-involvement-network-of-educators)