

Family Engagement: Assumptions Made, Lessons Learned

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Family Engagement:

Assumptions Made, Lessons Learned



Welcome!

Meet Your Presenters



Rebecca Honig
Chief Content and Curriculum
Officer, ParentPowered



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Senior Family Engagement
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Family Involvement vs. Family Engagement



Join us for [Your Elementary School / Organization's] Annual

BAKE SALE

FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, OCT 18TH
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

YOUR BAKE SALE LOCATION NAME HERE
Street Name, City, State, Zip Code

Cookies
Cakes
Brownies
Donuts
Pies
And More

Contact [Name] _____
000 000 000
with any que
sign up as
OR to cont
item for

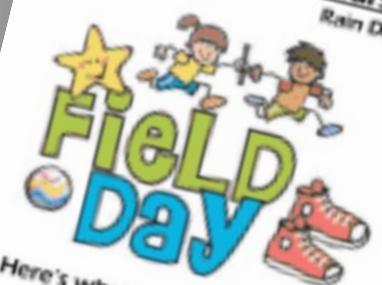
All Proceeds go to [Your Organization]

W-A-N-T-E-D

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

for FIELD DAY

Apex Elementary's Field Day this year will be held
Thursday, May 22nd.
Rain Date - Tuesday May 27th



We are asking parents/guardians if they would like to help with the various stations and activities.

*Due to safety concerns the only people allowed on the field during each session are the students for that session, volunteers working that specific session, and all staff members. All volunteers must have a green badge. This requires registering and passing the background check. No one will be allowed to volunteer and be on the field without this.

Here's what happens:

- Field day is divided into three separate sessions. The times are listed below.
- We need volunteers to help with each station (the K-1 and 2-3 sessions will also have 5th graders helping). You can sign up for more than one session.
- Volunteers will need to arrive 30 minutes prior to their session beginning. Please go to the office first to sign in as a visitor. Then come to the gym where we will have sign-up sheets for each separate activity.
- Signing up for the dunking booth does mean you **will** get wet.
- If you would like to volunteer, just fill out this form below and return it to Jeff Vizu at Jvizu@apexps.net.
- **Please return form by Monday, May 7th**

Parent/guardian Names _____

Email address _____

Phone # _____

Session	
K-1 9:00am-10:30am	_____
Gr. 2-3 11:00am -12:30pm	_____
Gr. 4-5 1:00-2:30pm	_____



MICHIGAN'S PARENT VOICE AND LEADERSHIP CONTINUUM

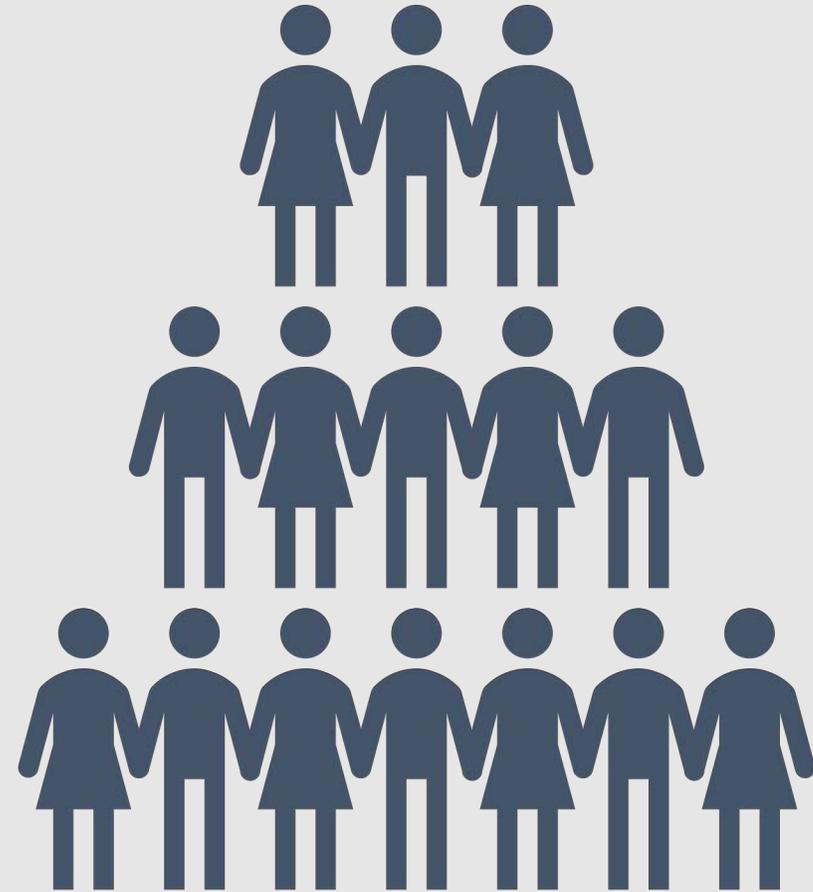
How Parent Leaders Become Change Agents to Impact Decisions

INVOLVEMENT	ENGAGEMENT	EMPOWERMENT	LEADERSHIP
Parents are enrolled and participate	Parent voice informs	Parent partners collaborate in planning and implementation	Parent leaders are integral decision-makers
The system designs all policies, programs and evaluation tools for parent participants	The system learns from parent voice through surveys, focus groups and interviews	The system changes approach with parent partners	The system designs policies, programs and evaluation tools with parent leaders

Parent engagement is “the ultimate goal of great schools, because it allows for not only the creation of **better parent-school partnerships** but also has a tremendous impact on **student achievement.**”

Source: www.aecf.org/blog/parental-involvement-vs-parental-engagement

1:15–500 Teacher to Student Ratio





You'll come away with tips, strategies, and resources to help you:

Bring family voice
and perspective to
the table.

Break down
barriers to
engagement.

Support families in
ways that are just
right for them.



“We need to believe that all families sincerely care about their children and will do everything they can to support them.”

– Ilene Carver

Source: <https://www.edweek.org/education/opinion-building-the-parent-teacher-relationship-part-ii/2008/05>

STORY 1 | Pandemic Pandemonium

What I learned about moving from passive to proactive feedback



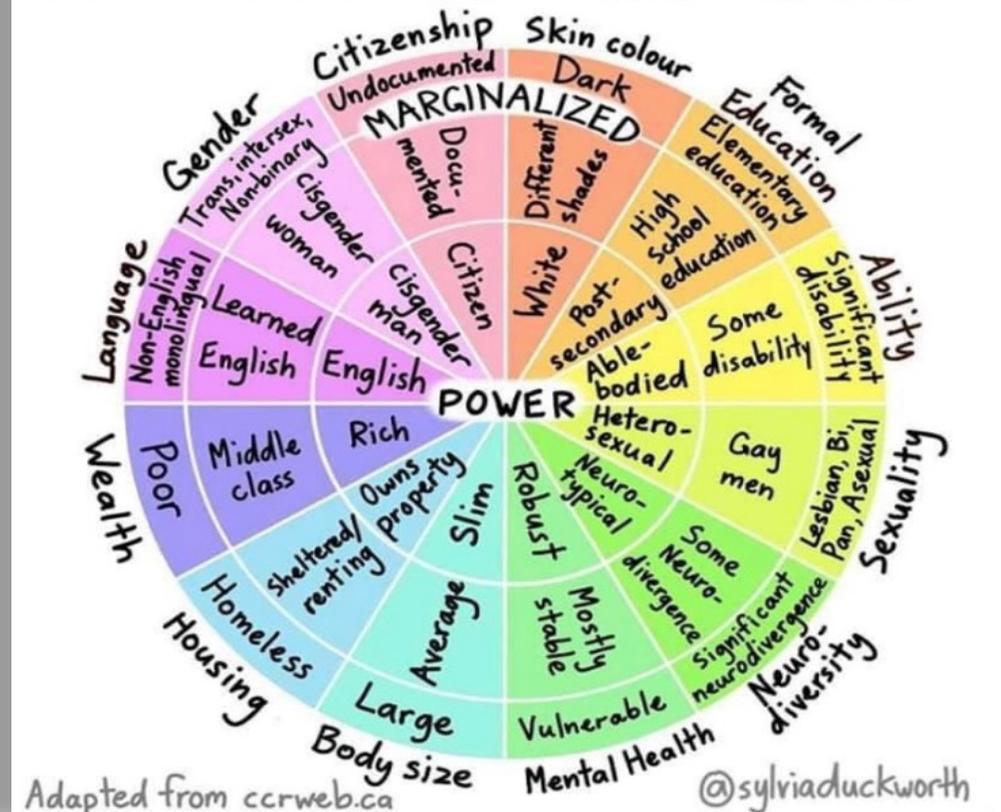
TAKEAWAY

When we do not have systems, we default to reacting to the loudest voices.

What can YOU do?

- Be mindful of the power dynamic.
- Proactively build a culture and system for eliciting feedback from diverse stakeholders at all levels.

WHEEL OF POWER/PRIVILEGE



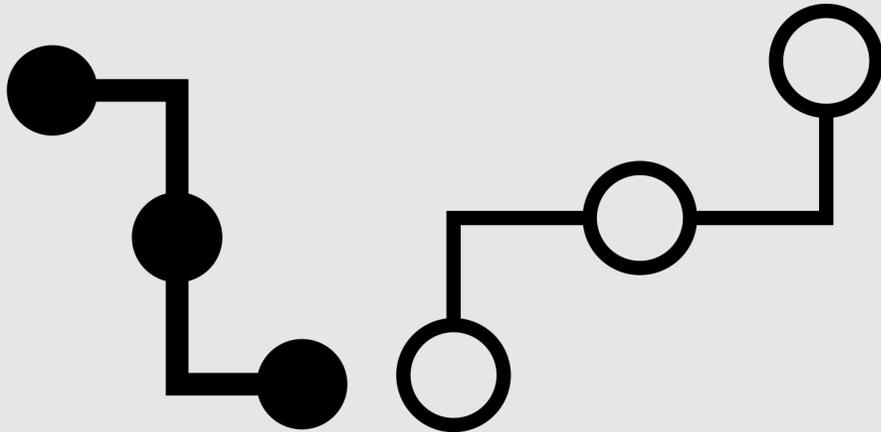
- **Survey anonymously** often but ask for **volunteers** who would be interested in elaborating to share their contact information.
- Conduct **school climate measures** annually.
- Create **focus groups** to gain understanding about specific programs or issues.
- Building a PBL unit in your classroom? **Ask parents for feedback** about what resources they would need to assist a child at home or to understand how well something worked and get feedback.

Share Your Insights & Ideas



STORY 2 | Conversations with Shafi

What I learned about scaffolding family engagement



TAKEAWAY

All families have different and unique starting points when it comes to engagement.

What can YOU do?

Reflect: What is chapter 1 for this family?

- What does family engagement look like for them?
- What do they already know?
- What are their hopes and dreams for their child?
- What are their expectations?
- What does this family need in order to engage in our school?

Building Awareness

Can you:

- Meet with the family?
- Partner with an agency that already has a trusting relationship in place?
- Seek out general information from local agencies?
- Seek out general cultural information?

- What does family engagement look like for them?
- What do they already know?
- What are their hopes and dreams for their child?
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- What does this family need in order to engage in our school?

Welcome to School in the United States



Ready4K

Keep in touch. Call or email.

Here in The United States, parents are directly involved with their child's school. It is always okay to call the school. They want to hear from you.



TIP: Add the number for the school office or "front office" to your contact list. If you have questions or need to reach out, you can always start by calling the office.

When should I call the school?

- Always call to let the school know if your child will be late or absent from school.
- Call if you have questions about how school works. For example, you might call to ask, "What do I need to pack in my child's backpack?" or "How does lunch work at school?"
- Call if you have any questions or concerns about your child. You can ask to speak with your child's teacher.
- Call if you would like to share about your family or child. You might let the school know about your important traditions.

IMPORTANT: You can always ask for an interpreter who speaks your home language. For example: When you call, say, "I need an interpreter who speaks [Dart]."

You can also reach out to a friend, community agency, advocate, or case manager for help calling the school.

Reaching out to the school can sometimes take a few tries. It's always okay to keep calling back till you get through.

Ready4K

Welcome to school in The United States! As a parent or guardian, you are a big part of your child's education. There are lots of ways for you to participate. When you do, you help your child learn and thrive!

Here are a few things to know.



TIP: You can ask for a printed copy of the calendar to hang at home.

What should I know about the school calendar?

- Most schools in the US are in session Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. There is no school on Saturday or Sunday.
- Many schools take a long break over the summer. This will be noted on the calendar.
- The school calendar lists holidays when school is NOT in session. It also lists half-days when school gets out early.

IMPORTANT: Note any holidays or half-days in advance. You may need to arrange for childcare you need to work on those days.

Ready4K

Check the school calendar.



The school calendar lists everything that is happening at school. It can usually be found on the school website. Knowing what's coming up helps you prepare and stay involved.

TIP: The school may tell you about these services. It's also always okay to ask about them. Ask, "What services does my child qualify for?"

Sign up for services and activities.

Many schools offer services and added support. This might include a bus to and from school, free lunch and breakfast, special clubs, sports, and after-school activities.



What should I know about school services and activities?

You have the right to some services. This can include classes like English language and free lunch.

TIP: You may need to fill out forms to sign up for services. It's always okay to ask the friend, your case manager, a friend, or volunteer for help filling out forms.

Your child may qualify for tutors or extra language support. The school may need to get to know your child a bit before these services are offered.

TIP: If you think your child needs more support and is not getting it, let the school know.

Many schools offer after school clubs, camps, activities, and meet other children.

IMPORTANT: Your child will likely have a choice when it comes to school lunch. They can eat the lunch the school provides or pack their own lunch, if there are things your child can't eat, let the school know.

Ready4K

Read communications from the school.

The school will communicate with you in lots of different ways. They may reach out about events or school closings. A big part of supporting your child in school is reading and responding to communications from the school.



TIP: Also look for the school website. Full important information.

How will the school communicate with me?

Email is one way the school will likely communicate with you.

TIP: If you do not have an email account, let the school know. They may be able to help you set one up.

The school may occasionally mail information to you.

TIP: Make sure you keep your home address updated with the school.

The school may call you with general announcements or information just for you.

TIP: Make sure to set up your voicemail so that they can leave you a message.

Your child's grades, assignments, and other class information may be posted online. School lunch menus may be posted too.

TIP: You may need a password to access this information. Ask the school or your case manager for help setting that up. Then, keep it when you need it.

Text messaging is another way the school may communicate with you.

TIP: Find out the number they will be texting you from so you can save changes make sure that they can alert the school.

IMPORTANT: If the school sends home information that you don't understand, let them know. It's always okay to ask the school to clarify.

Also let them know if you are not receiving updates. If there's a different way they need to reach you, let them know that too.

The school may send information home in your child's backpack.

TIP: Check your child's backpack each day after school to see if the teacher has sent anything home.

Ready4K

Support learning at home.

Your child looks up to you. You are their first and most important teacher. When you ask about school and support learning at home, you show them just how much you value their education.



TIP: Sit with your child as they work on their homework. Ask about the things they have out, even if the assignments are not in your home. Use that as your chance to engage you can with your child. Try, "Can you tell me about this assignment? What's it all about?"

What are some things I can do to support my child's learning at home?

- Ask about their school day. "What was fun? What was hard? What's one thing that was interesting about school today? Would you change anything about school? What?"
- Reach out to the teacher and ask, "What are you learning this month? What can I do to support this learning at home?"
- Spend time just being with your child. Time spent with you helps them grow.
- Make sure they get a good night's sleep so they are ready to learn the next day.
- Listen as they share their feelings about school. Assure them that you are there for them.
- Notice all their hard work and mention it. Let them know, "I see how much you are learning and growing!"

IMPORTANT: Celebrate your family and culture. Assure your child that they can learn new things and still stay connected to your traditions.

Share stories and songs from your home country.

Speak and read in the language you are most comfortable with. You'll be supporting your child in every way.

And let the school know about your culture too. The more they know, the more they can support your child.

Kids often learn new languages even faster than adults. As a parent, this can be hard. You are not alone. Reach out to friends to share your experiences. Know that your child will always look up to you.

Ready4K

And Remember....

Starting school in the US can be a big change. It's totally normal if your child has big feelings and is more emotional than usual.

Let your child know that even though things have changed, some things will always stay the same—like your love and support.

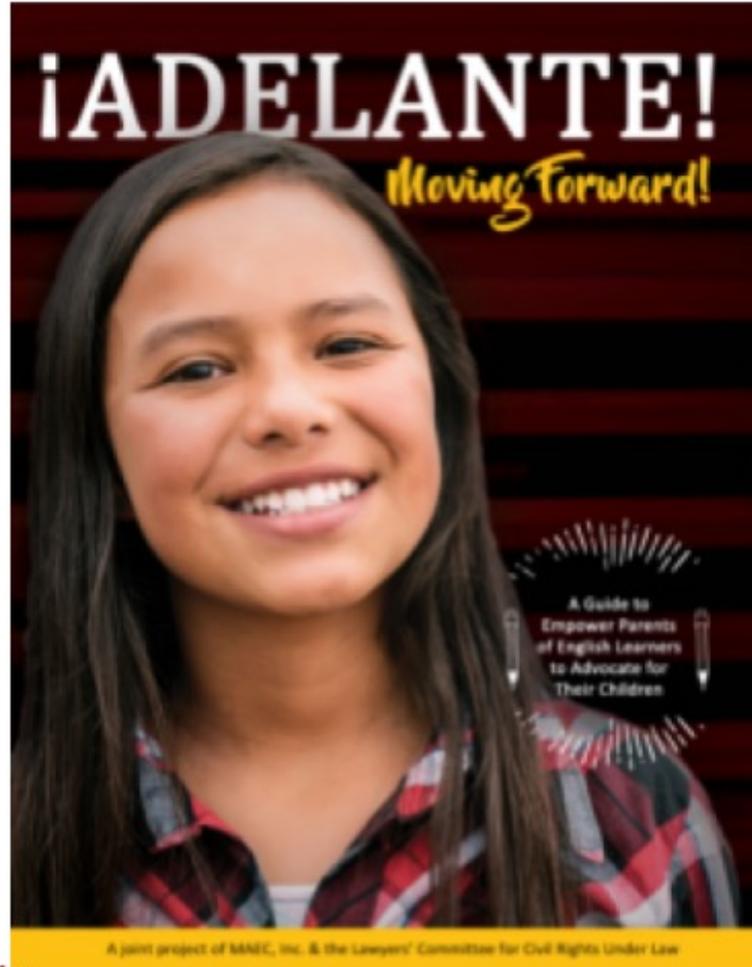
And, if your child's feelings are making it hard for them to get through the day (eat, sleep, learn), it is always okay to reach out to your child's doctor or nurse for support.

Remember, it's normal for you to have big feelings too. Make sure to take moments to care for yourself. Do something you love and/or reach out to friends and family from home. Give yourself a moment to take a few deep breaths or go for a walk. You've got this!



Ready4K

MAEC Publications

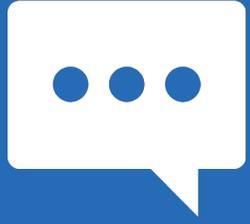


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**¡Adelante! Moving Forward!
A Guide to Empower Parents of
English Learners to Advocate for
their Children**



<https://maec.org/resource/adelante/>



Share Your Insights & Ideas



STORY 3 | It Takes a Village

What I learned about the value of amplifying parent and community funds of knowledge



TAKEAWAY

True partnership can be messy!
Recognizing multiple types of expertise
leads to a powerful outcome.

Recognizing Funds of Knowledge

What can YOU do?

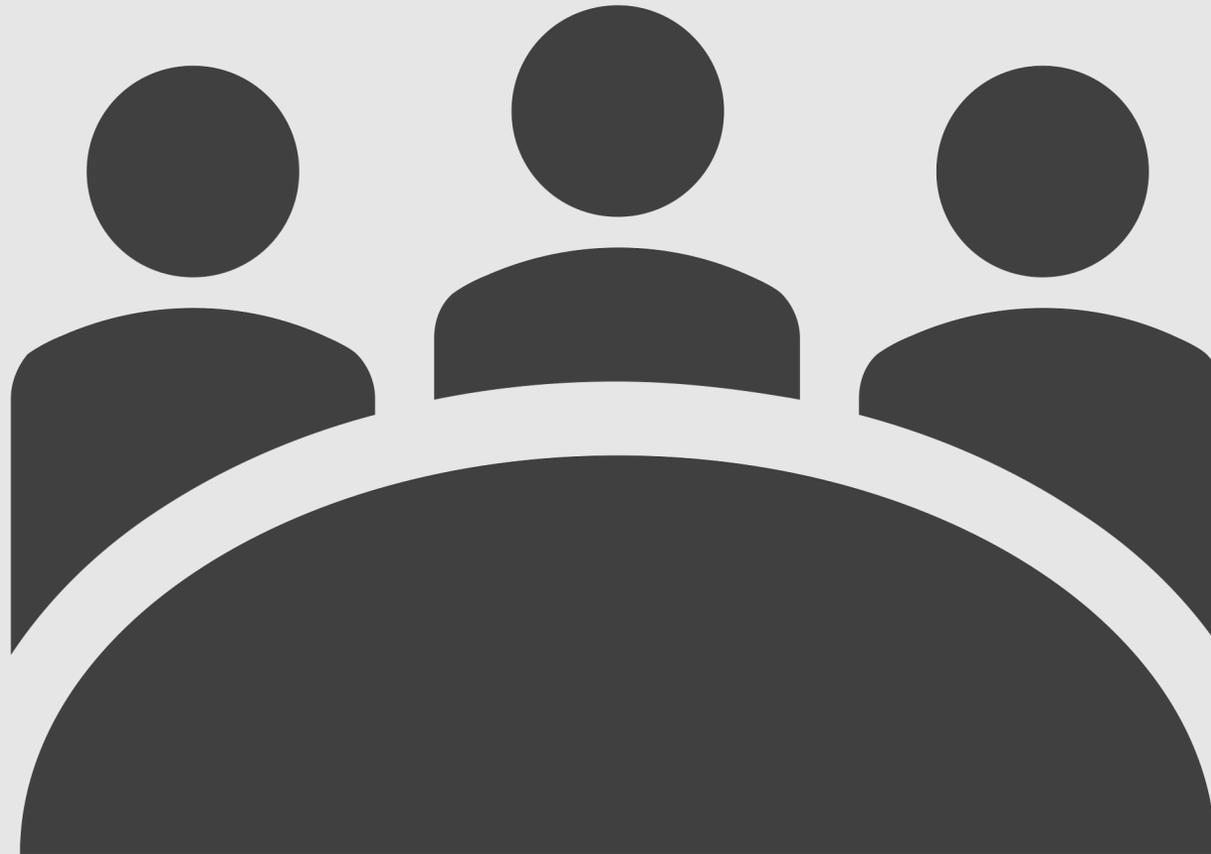
- Recognize fund of knowledge
 - What knowledge is missing?
 - Who can provide missing knowledge?
- Engagement means determining an aim together
- Who should be in the room when making decisions?
- Various types of data to inform the aim
 - Qualitative
 - Quantitative
- Revisit the aim periodically and update it based on new information

Funds of Knowledge





Share Your Insights & Ideas



STORY 4 | The Teacher Doesn't Like Me

Learnings from a Listening Session



TAKEAWAY

Parents come to the table with their own experiences and assumptions that affect how and if they engage.

Trauma Sensitive Approach to Family Engagement

- Consider past experiences
- Limit anything that might be activating/triggering
- Practice strength-based communication



Practice Positive, Strength-Based Communication Right From the Start

- Let families know ways to reach out
- Training for front staff
- Communicate *“We are in this together”*
- Honor and leverage family expertise
- Share early wins so that if you ever have to discuss hard moments it’s NOT the first time they’re hearing from you

Build Community

- Add joy, humor, fun and stories into your workshops
- Make time for families to network with each other to build relationships
- Make time for community events and celebrations



Key Takeaways

- ✓ Build systems to gather diverse feedback
- ✓ Meet families where they are
- ✓ Make the invisible visible (Scaffold family engagement)
- ✓ Honor family & community funds of knowledge
- ✓ Chart a trauma-sensitive course
- ✓ Cultivate comfort, communication & community

Take Away!

The link to download this
Welcome to School in the United
States is in chat!

Plus, keep an eye on your
email inbox.

Ready4K

Welcome to School in the United States



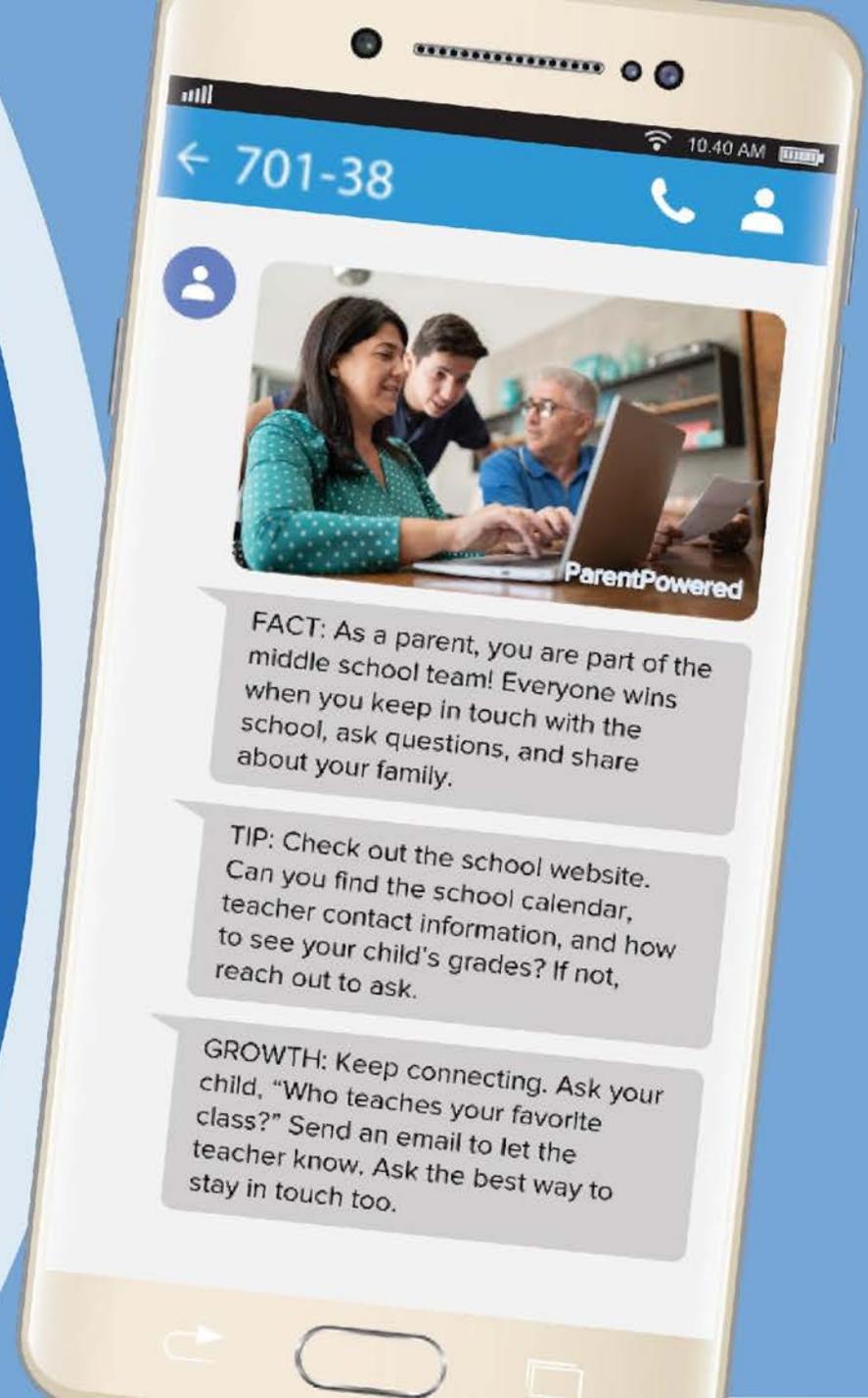
A photograph of two young women with dark hair, smiling and laughing together. The woman on the left is wearing a light blue denim shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a dark blue shirt with colorful floral embroidery. They are standing in front of a brick wall. A blue speech bubble graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'What questions do you have?'.

What questions
do you have?

Interested in learning more about ParentPowered's evidence-based family engagement program for birth through grade 8?

Let's Talk!

<https://bit.ly/43hS9Bv>
info@parentpowered.com



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Thank you for attending!



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