

CATCHing Family Engagement

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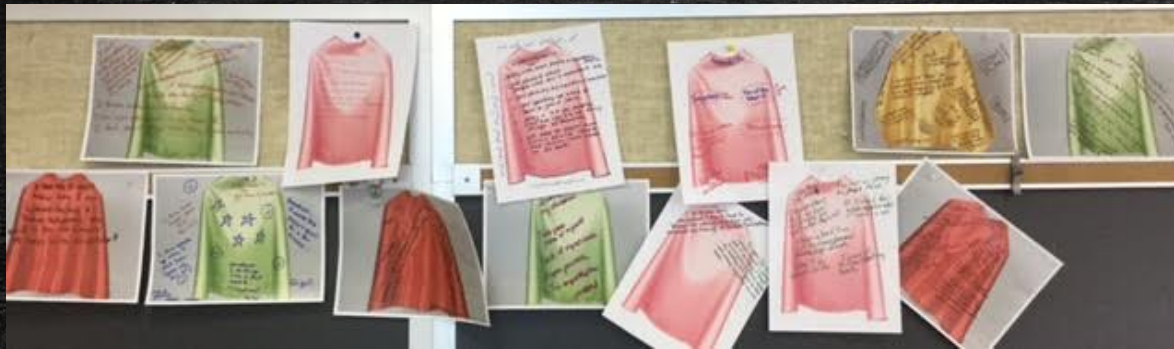
www.centerforfamilyinvolvement.org

Who am I?

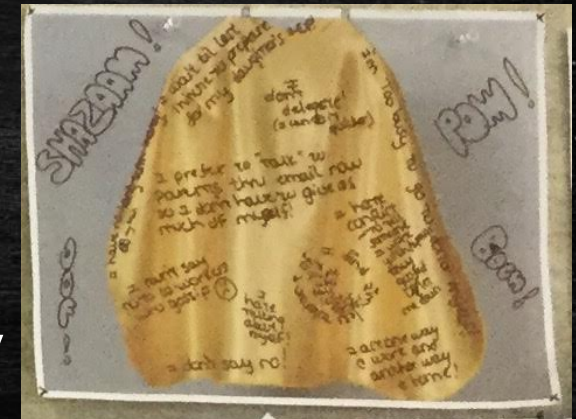
- M.A., Special Education Secondary Transition
- M.S., Non-Profit Leadership
- Worked in criminal justice/juvenile justice field
- Director, Center for Family Involvement @ Partnership for People with Disabilities at VCU (www.centerforfamilyinvolvement.org)
- Facilitator, VDOE Family Engagement Network
- Parent, 23 yr old daughter with significant physical, intellectual and sensory disabilities



Wearing Supercapes



and Cloaks of Humility



Change Agents



It's not what you
look at that
matters, it's
what you see

Henry David Thoreau



What I plan for us to CATCH..

- Capacity Building
- Agility
- Trusting Relationships
- Communication
- Humility



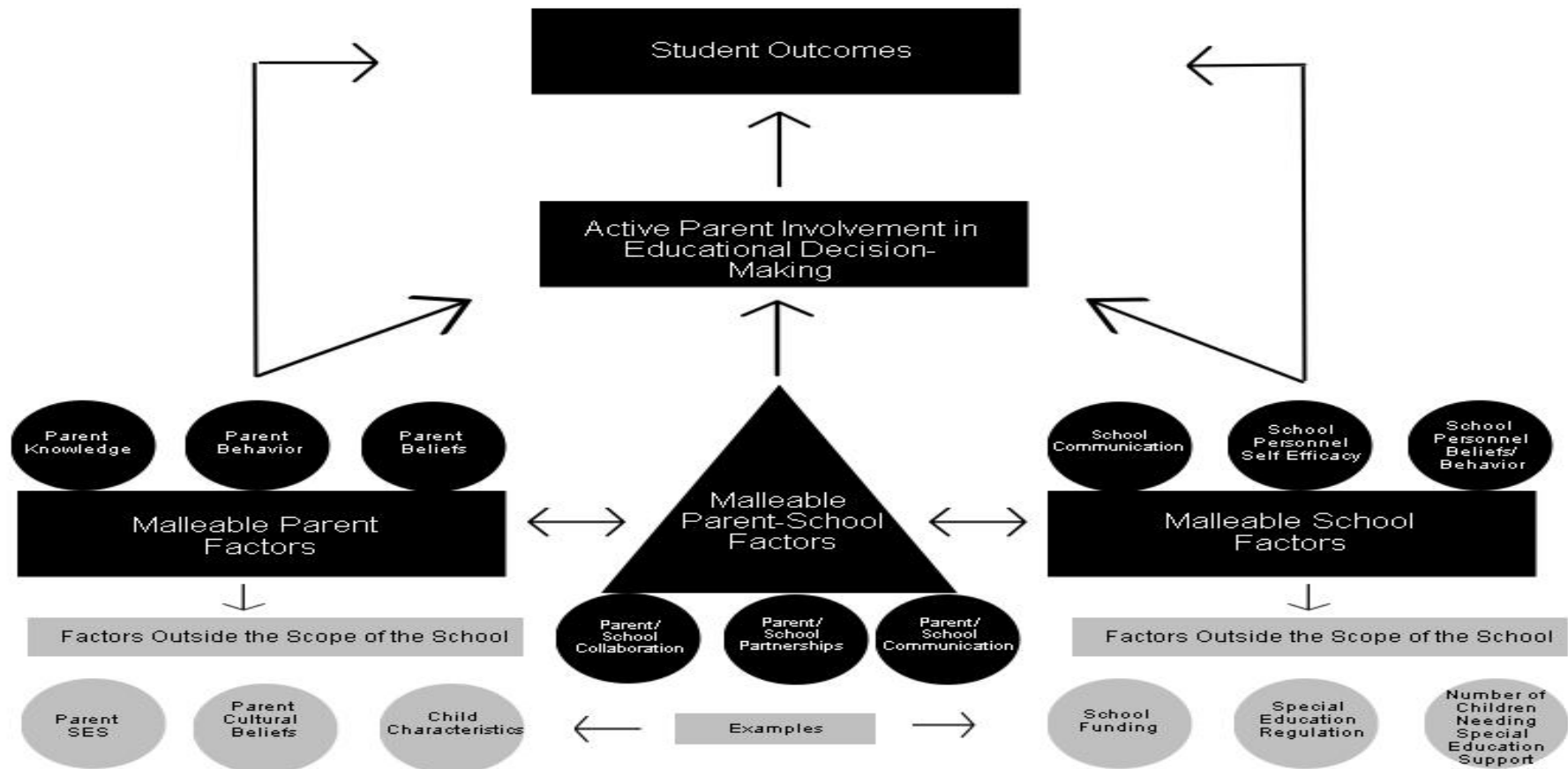
Capacity Building



Capacity Building

- To understand how families enter into relationships with schools, we need to appreciate
 - how each parent takes in information,
 - what and who are their trusted resources, and
 - ultimately what factors most impact their decision-making

Parent As Active Decision Makers with Schools



Defining Characteristics Of Parent Involvement

Dinora & Lynch (2015)

Things We Can Change (Parent)

- Knowledge
- Behaviors
- Beliefs



Things We Can Change (School)

- Teacher confidence
- Behaviors
- School communication

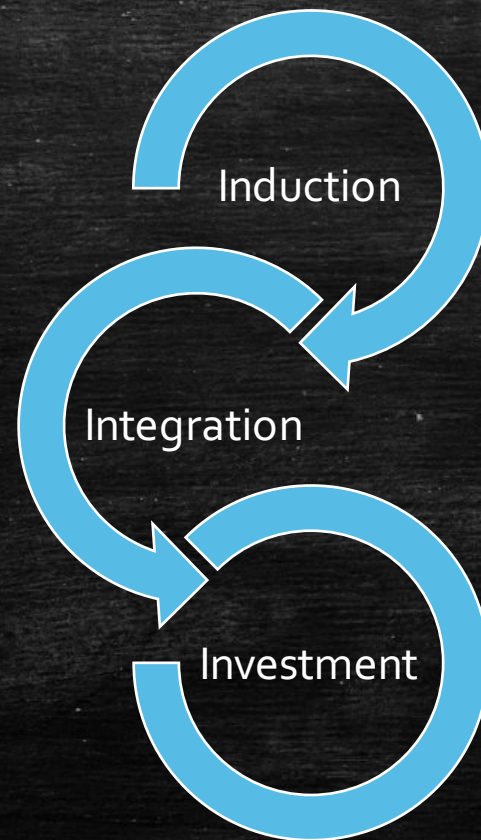


Things We Can Change (Parent-School)

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Partnering



Family Engagement is not just about activities, but **about process**



Source:
· Hong, S. (2012)
· A Cord of Three
· Strands: A new
· approach to parent
· engagement in schools

Agility



Cultural Agility

Being culturally agile is about giving careful consideration to **your own assumptions and beliefs** that are embedded in your goals for the student/family.

Rather than learning to identify and respond to sets of culturally specific traits (stereotyping), a culturally agile person 'interviews' the family and **explores similarities and differences between his/her own and the family's priorities, goals, capacities and approaches.**

Cultural Agility Requires

- Lifelong commitment to self-evaluation and self-critique
- Fixing power imbalances
- Developing partnerships with people and groups who advocate for others



**A relationship
without trust is
like a car without
gas you can stay
in it all you want,
but it won't go
anywhere.**

www.POSITIVEoutlook&BLOG.com

Trusting Relationships

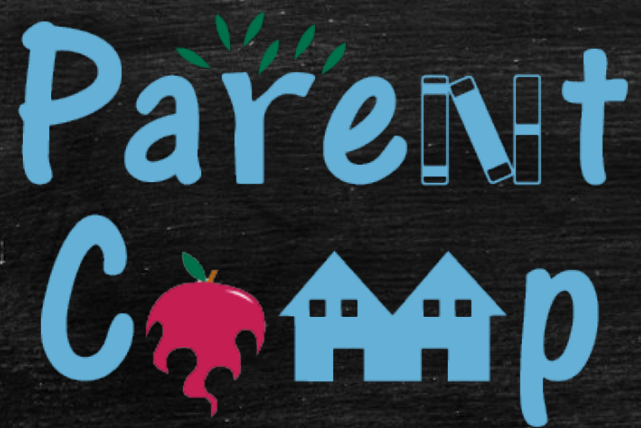
Co-Powering

- Co-powering seeks to lift the confidence and energy of another person, yourself and the relationship
- The better we become at co-powering, the more we grow deeper relationships that develop our power to create positive personal, family and community change

POWERING POSSIBILITIES

ParentCamp

Parent
Coop



If you want families to understand you

- You have to talk less, listen more
- You have to make what you say count



Field Trip



Reply Needed



Important Dates for
Your Calendar

Generation X communication preferences

- Apps
- Facebook
- Texts
- Emails
- Phone
- Other Parents



Cultural Broker

A go-between, one who advocates on behalf of another individual or group

TXT



Source: Nemeth, K. Family Engagement Strategies for all Languages and Cultures, Language Castle
Source: <http://www.pearsoned.com/education-blog/digital-tools-power-parent-engagement/>



Four outcomes of conversations

1. Coming into the conversation, we see the following needs and challenges...
2. Inside the conversation, we want to engage with each other in these ways....
3. At the end of the conversation, we want these things to be clear...
4. Following the conversation, we want these things to happen...

Source: Libraries Transforming Communities: community conversation workbook

Me
My name is Brooke.
I live in Virginia with my mom and dad.
I go to Varina High School.
I want to own a doggie day care when I graduate high school

My strengths and talents
I can occupy myself for long periods of time
I pay attention
I am physically strong

Words that describe me best
Always cheerful
Inquisitive
Funny
Cute

What you can do to help me
Pour drinks in my cup
Put food on a fork for me
Help me to the bathroom, get dressed
Help me at school "talk" to classmates
Help me understand and do activities
Push my wheelchair
Give me clear and simple one step directions
Hold things close to me so I can see them



My favorite things
My favorite foods are chicken nuggets, potatoes and peanut butter crackers - and sweet ice tea
I like riding in the car with the window open blowing my hair
I love the sound of shaking a bottle of water
I like listening to music (pop, rock and rap)
I love going to Florida to visit my grandparents

An Ideal Day
A big breakfast with OJ
Going to school
Quiet time throughout the day
Eating every couple of hours
Lots to drink
Sitting with friends in class or lunch
Chillin' in my room
Playing or shopping with my mom and dad

My fears and worries / Things I don't like
Sudden noises
When I don't know what's going to happen next
Angry, loud voices
Being ignored
Bright sun or lights in my eyes
Not having my dog (she died)

My Worst Possible Day
Sitting at home all day with nothing to do
Not getting enough to eat or drink
Being ignored - especially when I use my body to "talk"
Having surgery

Humility

true humility is
staying teachable,
regardless of how
much you
already know



GeniusQuotes.net

Having Difficult Conversations

Vulnerabilities	Strengths	Needs
I don't know enough about the issues	I use community resources to support knowledge	I need ground rules for discussion

Source: *Let's Talk* ~ Southern Poverty Law Center

Hidden Attitudes and Biases

- The Implicit Association Test (IAT) measures attitudes and beliefs that people may be unwilling or unable to report.

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

Reactance Theory

- Resistance is a normal or expected response to a lost or threatened personal freedom



