PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FAMILIES AND SCHOOL: A CLIMATE FOR SUCCESS
THIS PARTNERSHIP REQUIRES FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
Family Engagement recognizes that:

- All families have strengths
- Families are the experts on themselves
- Families deserve to be treated with dignity and respect
- Families can make well-informed decisions about keeping their children safe when supported
- A team is often more capable of creative and high-quality decision-making than individual
Family Engagement Requires

- A shift in the belief that agencies alone know what is best for children and families
- Allowing families to fully participate in decision making
- Using straight talk to communicate with others
PRINCIPLE 1:
A Culture That Welcomes and Engages Every Family
Principle 2: 
Communicate Effectively and Build Relationships
Principle 3:
Empower Every Family to Ensure Student Success
PRINCIPLE 4: Family Participation in Decision Making
PRINCIPLE 5:
Engage the Greater Community
WHAT CAUSES DISENGAGEMENT?
Self-Preservation
Isolation
Stress
Anxiety
Fear
WHAT ARE SOME OF THE EMOTIONS WE MAY BE FEELING TODAY?
- Guilt
- Envy
- Isolation
- Flight Mode
- Depression

- Denial
- Bargaining
- Blaming
- Mourning
- Fear
- Anger
WHEN THE SCHOOL HAS ENGAGED THEIR FAMILIES WE ARE READY TO:

GET TO WORK
BE CHILD ORIENTED
WORK TOGETHER
How can we improve our partnerships?
POSITIVE PARENT ADVOCACY
ALWAYS:
- Ask questions and ask for help
- Attend every meeting
- Regulate your emotions
- Read reports, documents and letters
Speak to teachers, team members and specialists
Always be open minded and respectful
Trust your instincts
Exercise your rights, role and responsibilities
POSITIVE PARENT ADVOCACY
NEVER:
- Argue with the team in front of your child
- Attack anyone for their opinions
- Blame anyone for your child’s challenges
- Blindly accept what you are told
- File frivolous complaints
POSITIVE PARENT ADVOCACY
SUGGESTIONS:
Before you speak, ask yourself:
is it true, is it kind, is it necessary?
Never miss an opportunity to compliment or encourage
Disagree without being disagreeable
► Cultivate your sense of humor
► Get involved at school: the PTA, Volunteering, SEAC
► Contact the Parent Resource Center
Contact Information
Office of Special Education
571-252-1011

Parent Resource Center
571-252-2185