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PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FAMILIES  
AND SCHOOL  
A CLIMATE FOR SUCCESS


THIS PARTNERSHIP REQUIRES  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The background is a solid blue gradient. In the bottom right corner, there are several white, parallel diagonal lines that sweep upwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement and modern design.

# 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
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# 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
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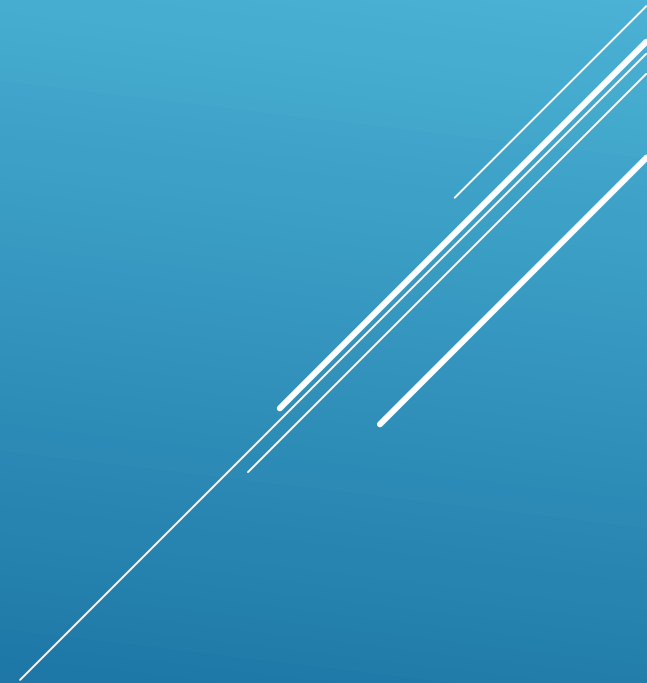
## PRINCIPLE 1:

A Culture That Welcomes and  
Engages Every Family



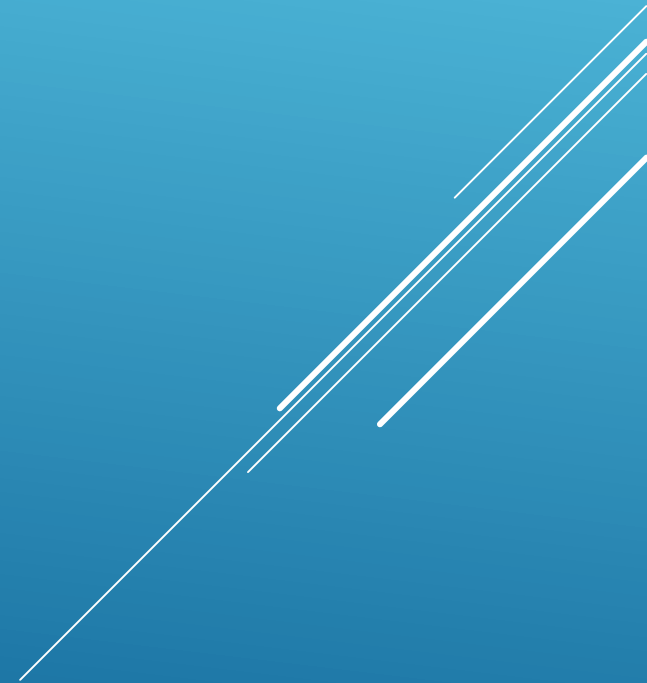
Principle 2:

Communicate Effectively and Build Relationships



Principle 3:

Empower Every Family to Ensure  
Student Success



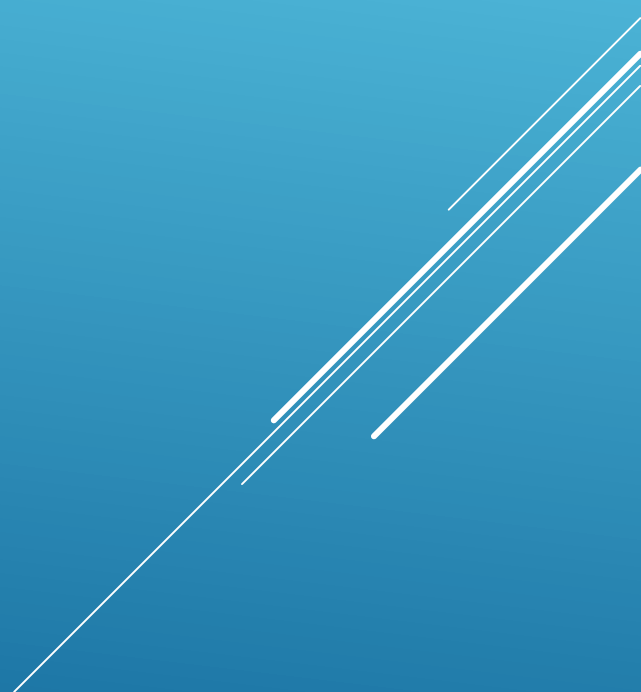
PRINCIPLE 4:

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
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WHEN THE SCHOOL HAS ENGAGED THEIR  
FAMILIES WE ARE READY TO:

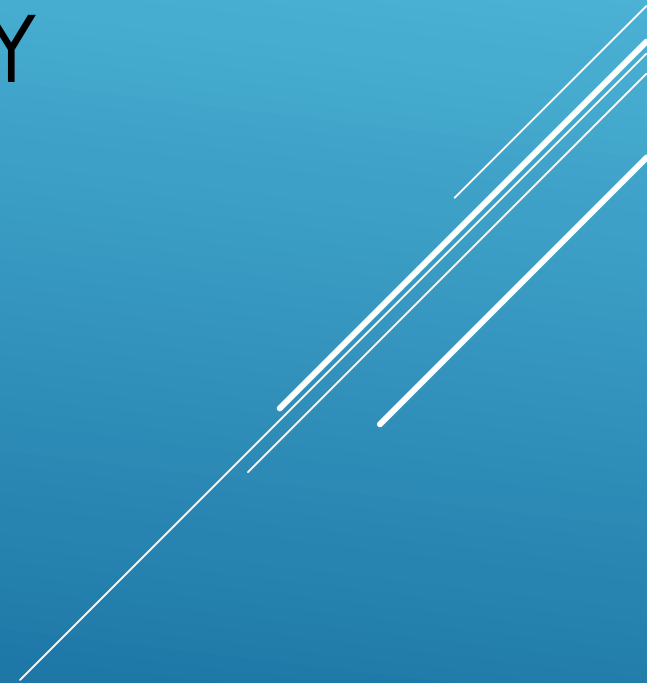
GET TO WORK  
BE CHILD ORIENTED  
WORK TOGETHER

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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
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- ▶ Speak to teachers, team members and specialists
  - ▶ Always be open minded and respectful
  - ▶ Trust your instincts
  - ▶ Exercise your rights, role and responsibilities
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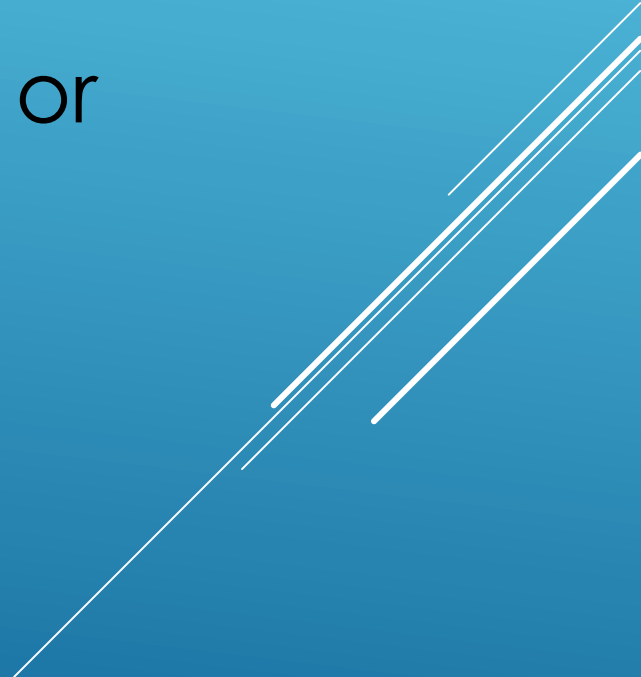
POSITIVE PARENT ADVOCACY  
NEVER:




- ▶ 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
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# 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
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- ▶ Cultivate your sense of humor
  - ▶ Get involved at school: the PTA, Volunteering, SEAC
  - ▶ Contact the Parent Resource Center
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**Contact Information**  
**Office of Special Education**  
**571-252-1011**

**Parent Resource Center**  
**571-252-2185**

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