School Family Community Partnership: Nuts and Bolts and Successful Stories

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Hyun, Lucas, & Moore, 2013
When parents are involved in their children’s education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better.

- A new generation of evidence: The family is critical to student achievement (Henderson & Berla, 1994)
What is SFC Partnership?

Collaborative initiatives involving school personnel, families, and community members and organizations as mutual and equal partners in planning, coordinating, and implementing programs and activities at home, at school, and in the community to help children succeed.

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Hyun, Lucas, & Moore, 2013
1. Student Achievement

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College encouragement from parents/guardians:
+ impact on achievement in English, science, & math
+ association with completing more credits
+ association with enrollment in

Communication between parents and students regarding academics:
+ association with high school coursework
+ association to better grades and more English/Math credit
+ influence on standardized tests
+ class behavior

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Volunteering

- Parent/guardian support at school has positive association with the number of credits seniors complete in math, science, and English.

- Parent/guardian participation at school increases student attendance.

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Outreach

- High school outreach activities positively predict family involvement.
- Staff outreach to parents regarding student post-secondary = high parent attendance at school workshops.
- When staff members informed parents how to help their students parents were more likely to help students with homework.
- When staff contacted parents about school related issues (credits, programs, plans after high school) parents talked with their students more often about school.

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2. Meeting the goals

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3. Social Justice

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ASCA National Model

LEADER

ADVOCATE

COLLABORATOR

SCHOOL

FAMILY

COMMUNITY

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Five Principles of Effective SFC

1. Policies
2. Leadership
3. Communication
4. Community
5. Evaluation

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School Counselors’ Steps to Take

1. Do you have an action team?
2. How about funds and official support?
3. Can we begin?
4. Where are we at?
5. Do we have a plan?

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School Counselor’s Steps to Take

6. Apply the framework of six types of involvement to activities linked to school improvement goals.

7. Have we include every stakeholders?

8. Do we have data?

9. Let’s get the words/results out!

10. Keep on moving~!!

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From the Trenches...

- High School
- Elementary School
Family Engagement at Hawthorne Elementary School

Developing the Action Team for Partnerships or Family Engagement Action Team

Jon Francois, teacher; Marcel Hauser, family support worker; Kirby Green, Teacher; Melissa Mak, bilingual teacher; Eileen Gray, school business officer; Lisa Lucas, school family partnerships coordinator; Oveta Hunter, Teacher; Yolanda McGhee, family support worker.

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Family-School-Community Engagement: A Path in the Forest

“I thought about ways that I actually might be a barrier,” said Lisa Lucas, a family and community engagement specialist at Hawthorne Elementary School in Seattle. “I’ve had opportunities to ask myself what ways I might be a barrier, which helps me be more mindful.”

Julius Defour (left), an achievement gap intervention specialist at John R. Rogers High School in Spokane, looks over a wild turkey feather with Lisa Lucas, a community engagement specialist at Hawthorne Elementary School in Seattle.


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Hawthorne Elementary experiencing revitalization with aid of community

Parents and neighbors of Hawthorne Elementary in Seattle's Columbia City neighborhood, long considered among the lowest-performing in the state, are trying to turn the school around by donating their money, time and ideas.

By Brian M. Rosenthal

Seattle Times education reporter

Parent volunteer Jen Ayers, center, helps her son, Griffin Ayers, right, and his fellow kindergarten classmate, Daniel Sanchez Farias, at Hawthorne Elementary in Seattle. Ayers and her husband, Graham Ayers, volunteer at the school weekly.
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Family Engagement Action Team (FEAT):
Parents, PTA, Parent leaders,
Family support workers, IA/Bilingual department,
Teachers, Support staff, Administration, Powerful Schools,
Community Partners & FEAT coordinator

Academic Goal

Improve Math
Hawthorne Family Math Night, Powerful Schools

Improve Reading
Hawthorne Family Literacy Night

Improve Student Behavior
PBIS

Non-Academic Goal

Create a Climate for Partnerships
Hawthorne Family Center/Focus Groups

Partnership Goal

Academic Goal

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Family Literacy Mystery Night
“Case of the Missing Elmos” Huge Success!

Case of the Missing Elmos: Hawthorne Elementary’s Literacy Mystery Night

Principal Scott’s beloved Elmo collection is missing! Can the Hawthorne students help solve the case? Hawthorne Elementary families, staff and community joined for an amazing “Case of the Missing Elmos” Family Literacy Night.

Goal – to promote literacy for all students through community collaboration.

School Level – Elementary (may be adapted to other school levels)

Budget – $500

Funding Source: Title 1, Friends of Hawthorne and Seattle Public Library

Attendance – Over 250 people attended, including 130 students and 75 parents.

Seattle Police Detective, Denise “Cookie” Boulain, kicked off “Mystery Literacy Night” at an all-school assembly, encouraging students to use their reading skills to gather clues. Designed to get students and families interested and excited about reading, this event included an entertaining, student-led performance by the Voices of Hawthorne followed by interactive “Solve the Case” activities.

Students involved in solving the case engaged in activities to promote reading and show parents ways to practice key literacy skills with their children. Literacy games included:

1. Decoding Puzzles: Students used decoding skills to search for missing clues.

Keys to success:
• Every student received a free book and take-home resources, including Literacy and Math Toolkits from SPS to support learning at home.
• Hawthorne Elementary Library provided grade level book activities for families.
• The Seattle Public Library gave families information on library card, reading activities, and book marks. They also provided support registering families for community library cards. Age/grade level books including multicultural offerings.
• Interpreters were at each station.
• The night was a collaboration of staff, Friends of Hawthorne Volunteers, Detective Boulain, and the Seattle Public Library-Columbia City Branch.
• Free food, along with free books, made the night complete.
Family Literacy Night Partnership Event: Case of the Missing Elmo

Planning Team

Parent Leaders

Friends of Hawthorne PTA

Community

CDSA

Staff

Powerful Readers

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Community Day School Association

- Childcare for families of younger siblings for events/pta
- Support events

Parent Leaders

- ESL/ELL - Called all dual language families
- Greeting families
- Set up & design

Community

- Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin, Seattle Police Department,

Powerful Schools

- Literacy games for families
- Hands on activities per level

Planning Team

- School Event planning team
- Staff

PTA

- Funding
- Technology
- Volunteers
- Family sign in table
- FOH recruitment

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School Wide Data Collection

Family Volunteer, Interests & Skills Survey
Translations- English, Somali, Vietnamese & Spanish
MSP Night Survey
Welcoming Schools Walk Through Survey
The Family Center – Sign in Forms

*Family Surveys listed in National Network of Partnership Schools-Promising Practices
Seattle Public Schools- Promising Practices

Hyun, Lucas, & Moore, 2013
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*Hyun, Lucas, & Moore, 2013*
The Family Center: Sustainable Partnerships

The Family Center
- Established in March 2012
- Coffee with Families Group Specific
- Gathering information to provide specific program support.
- Space for families to gather
- FSW house the Family Center
- Faith based Community Volunteers

Hawthorne Learning Community
- Created from the Coffee with Families series led to ESL at Hawthorne Campus
- Sponsored by the PTA
- Supported by the IA department

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Don’t Reinvent The Wheel...
Connecting with Community Resources

- Key Players: District supervisor, all district counselors, social workers, and nurses.

- Goal: To update community on school needs and connect with community resources.

- Results: Collaboration between schools and necessary resources.

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Teachers

- Alumni connections
- PR

College & Career Counselor

- Connecting w/ colleges and career opportunities
- PR
- Data collection

Janitors

- Set up
- Break down

Intern/Other Counselors

- First contact w/ attendees
- Reserve building space
- Connect w/ janitors
- PR
- Data collection
- Supplies

Community

- Universities
- Community Colleges
- Career Opportunities

Lead Counselor

- Timing
- Organization

Hyun, Lucas, & Moore, 2013
CARE Night
Family Advocate
Middle School Counselors
Community
Interns
High School Counselors
Janitors

Hyun, Lucas, & Moore, 2013
Interns

- All contact w/ attendees
- PR
- Data collection
- Supplies

Middle School Counselors

- Space reservation
- Clothing collection
- PR

Community

- Resources for attendees

Janitors

- Set up
- Break down

High School Counselors

- Clothing collection
- PR

Family Advocate

- Timing
- Organization
- PR
Coordination

CARE Night
- Translator
- Location
- Tables/Chairs
- Water
- Student Volunteers
- Treats

College & Career Fair
- Translator
- Location
- Tables/Chairs
- Water (lots!)
- Student Volunteers
- Treats

Hyun, Lucas, & Moore, 2013
When?

CARE Night
- Event Date Determined: 10/1/2012
- First Contact (email): 10/2/2012
- Second Contact (email): 10/7/2012
- Third Contact (phone): 10/12/12
- Participation rate: 20/31

College & Career Fair
- Event Date September 27th, 2012
- First Contact (email): May 2012
- Second contact (email): 09/01/2012
- Third contact (email): 09/21/12
- Participation rate: 29/40

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Needs Assessment Prior to Event

- Students & Parents
  - What/who do you want to see at college & career fair?
  - What community organizations interest you?
  - Open-ended, multiple choice, check box...
  - Survey in advisory, homeroom, blocks, etc...

What data will support your program?

- Number of students in attendance
- Number of parents in attendance
- Informal Assessment – Likert Scale & Open Ended
  - How useful was this event to you?
  - What would you like to see next year?  

Drummond & Jones (2010)
Promote Your Event & Program!

- School or Counseling Newsletter
- Mass Call or Email to School Families
- Reader Board
- School Announcements
- Advisory/Homeroom/Block Announcement

Hyun, Lucas, & Moore, 2013

Sink (2012)
Tips & Tricks

- Checklists are your friend
- Organization?
- Student volunteers or Counseling TA’s
- Nag, nag, nag... kindly
- Self-Care
- Send Thank You’s!

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