

Teaching Team Beliefs

We believe that productive partnerships between schools and families are indispensable for student learning and well-being. Our task is to support sitting leaders in strengthening their family engagement leadership. We will be most effective as a teaching team if we embody the following beliefs:

1. **Relational Trust:** The way we are in relationship with leaders and each other should be a model for how we believe leaders should be in relationship with their staff and families.
2. **Asset-Based:** We are committed to focusing on our leaders' strengths, their depth of experiences, and all they have to offer. We meet leaders where they are, and model the same strength-based thinking with them that we ask them to apply with their staff and families.
3. **Learning Community:** It is our responsibility to continually assess and improve our practices. We aim to learn from each other, push each other, and be vulnerable with each other. Giving and receiving honest feedback and embracing change are necessary elements of growth.
4. **Focus on Justice:** We have all inherited schooling systems that were not originally designed for equity. Part of building liberatory systems involves addressing language, actions, and beliefs that are deficit-based or reinforce the oppressive systems that unfairly impact marginalized people. We also recognize that deficit-based and oppressive framings stem from systemic factors, not individual failures; we are humans, we make mistakes, and no one thing a person says or does represents the totality of their beliefs.
5. **Joy:** Leading schools is hard work. It is demanding and taxing, and we believe it is important to sustain ourselves with joy. We aim to have fun, and to lift each other up through celebration and encouragement!

Goals & Outcomes: The Family Engagement Leadership Institute is organized around three key goals and one essential outcome. Progressing through the goals is meant to equip Institute participants to achieve the essential outcome: an equity-focused family engagement strategy for the next school year.

Three Key Goals — Institute participants should be able to...

1. Understand the most essential research on family engagement in schools.
2. Apply the best-practices and leadership moves that improve family engagement strategies.
3. Clarify their school or district's family engagement strengths and challenges, and develop an Action Plan with safe-to-fail experiments in collaboration with their Action Teams.

The Essential Outcome of the Institute — Institute participants will...

4. Culminate the Institute with an equity-focused family engagement strategy for the next year that:
 - Is integrated into existing priorities and plans (e.g. instructional goals, school climate strategies, etc.)

- Involves new and/or re-purposed investments (e.g. increased staff time to partner with families, PD funding, etc.)
- Applies existing management tools (e.g. hiring practices, policies, etc.)