FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF STATE FEDERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE - MAY 2017

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Frameworks for Engagement

FRAMEWORKS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Objectives:

- Overview the importance of family engagement
- Identify common barriers to family engagement
- Review family engagement frameworks
- Discuss common family engagement principles

"FAMILY ENGAGEMENT" DEFINED

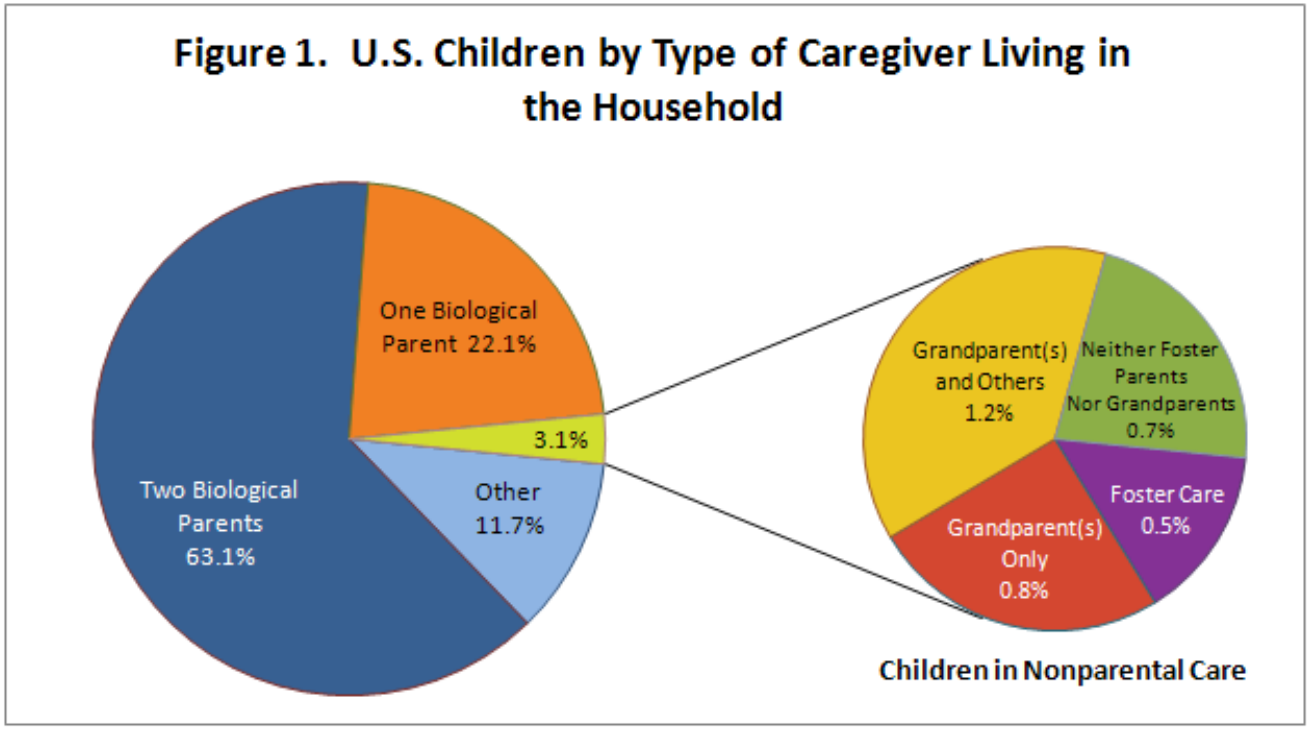
"Family engagement refers to the systematic inclusion of families in activities and programs that promote children's development, learning, and wellness, including in the planning, development, and evaluation of such activities, programs, and systems."

U.S. Dept. of Education, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

Joint Policy Statement On Family Engagement From The Early Years To The Early Grades, 2016

"PARENT" TO "FAMILY"

Inclusive and respective of all adults who raise and care for children, to include biological, adoptive, and foster parents; grandparents; legal and informal guardians; and adult siblings



Source: U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services; Office of the Asst Secretary for Planning & Evaluation: **Children in Nonparental Care: Findings from the 2011-2012 National Survey of Children's Health** 03/01/2014

"INVOLVEMENT" TO "ENGAGEMENT"

Individual Responsibility	Shared Responsibility in Partnership
Deficit-Based/Adversarial	Strength-Based and Collaborative
Random Acts	Systemic
Add-on and one-time project	Integrated and Sustained with Purposeful Connections to Learning
Events Driven	Learning and Outcomes Driven
Compliance	Ownership and Continuous Improvement

IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Strong family engagement is central in promoting children's healthy development and wellness, including:

- social-emotional and behavioral development;
- preparing children for school;
- seamlessly transitioning them to kindergarten; and
- supporting academic achievement in elementary school and beyond.

Source: ED/HHS *Joint Policy Statement On Family Engagement From The Early Years To The Early Grades*, 2016

IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

When families and the institutions where children learn partner in meaningful ways, children:

- have more positive attitudes toward school
- stay in school longer
- have better attendance
- experience more school success

Source: ED/HHS *Joint Policy Statement On Family Engagement From The Early Years To The Early Grades*, 2016

BUILD ON FAMILIES' STRENGTHS

- Acknowledge the family wants to help their children succeed
- Ask family how they want to be involved
- Create opportunities for families to be involved, based on their strengths, skills, knowledge
- Families & schools work together as partners in setting goals for children's education

OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

AT SEA & LEA LEVELS

In order to establish and foster sustained, trusting relationships it is important to:

- Always provide information within the context of why family engagement is important for the child and how it will help him/her.
- Identify and address needs of the school, the students, and the families.
- Think of engagement as an opportunity to build relationships and partnerships, not an isolated event.
- Listen to parents and families and incorporate feedback.

Engaging a Diverse Representation of Families & Community

ENGAGING DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS

REPRESENTATION OF FAMILIES & COMMUNITY

- Parents of students from geographically diverse areas
- Parents of students from socioeconomically diverse backgrounds
- Parents of students with disabilities
- Parents of migrant and immigrant families
- Parents of English learners
- Community based and civil rights organizations
- Employers and business organizations

Dear Colleague letter – ESSA Stakeholder engagement, June 2016

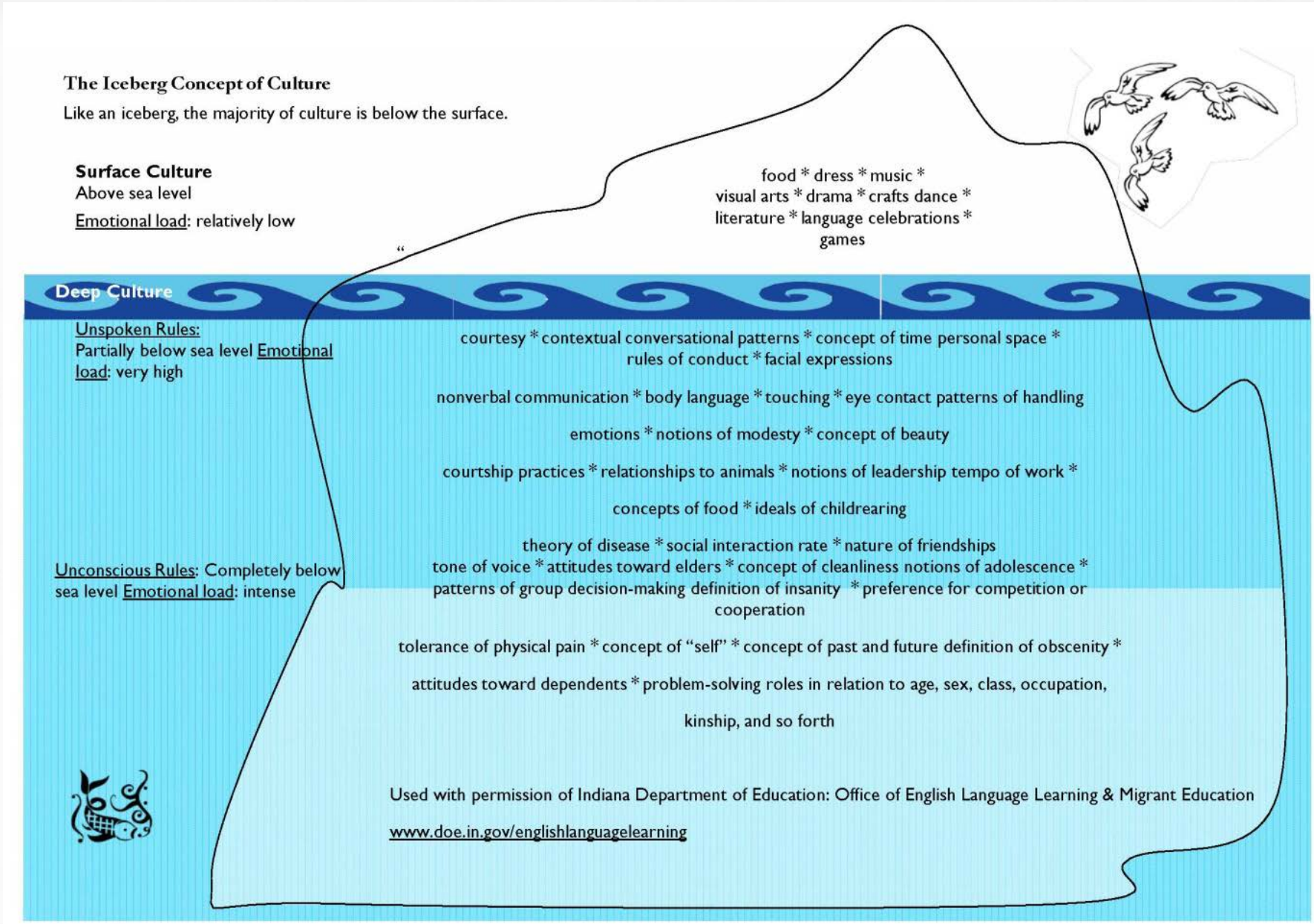
IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE

Culture is:

- a system of beliefs, customs and behaviors
- an integrated pattern of human behavior that includes the language, thoughts, communications, actions, customs, beliefs, values, and institutions of racial, ethnic, religious, or social groups

- Positive effects on children's learning & family engagement when school staff understand and honor their culture

Source: ***Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Parents and Community as Partners in Education***



Source: ***Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Parents and Community as Partners in Education***

WHY DON'T FAMILIES PARTICIPATE?

UNDERSTAND THE BARRIERS TO ENGAGEMENT

From *5 Steps to Getting Parents to Meetings – MCPS Study Circles*

Family Engagement Frameworks

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS

- National PTA – National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

- HeadStart – Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework

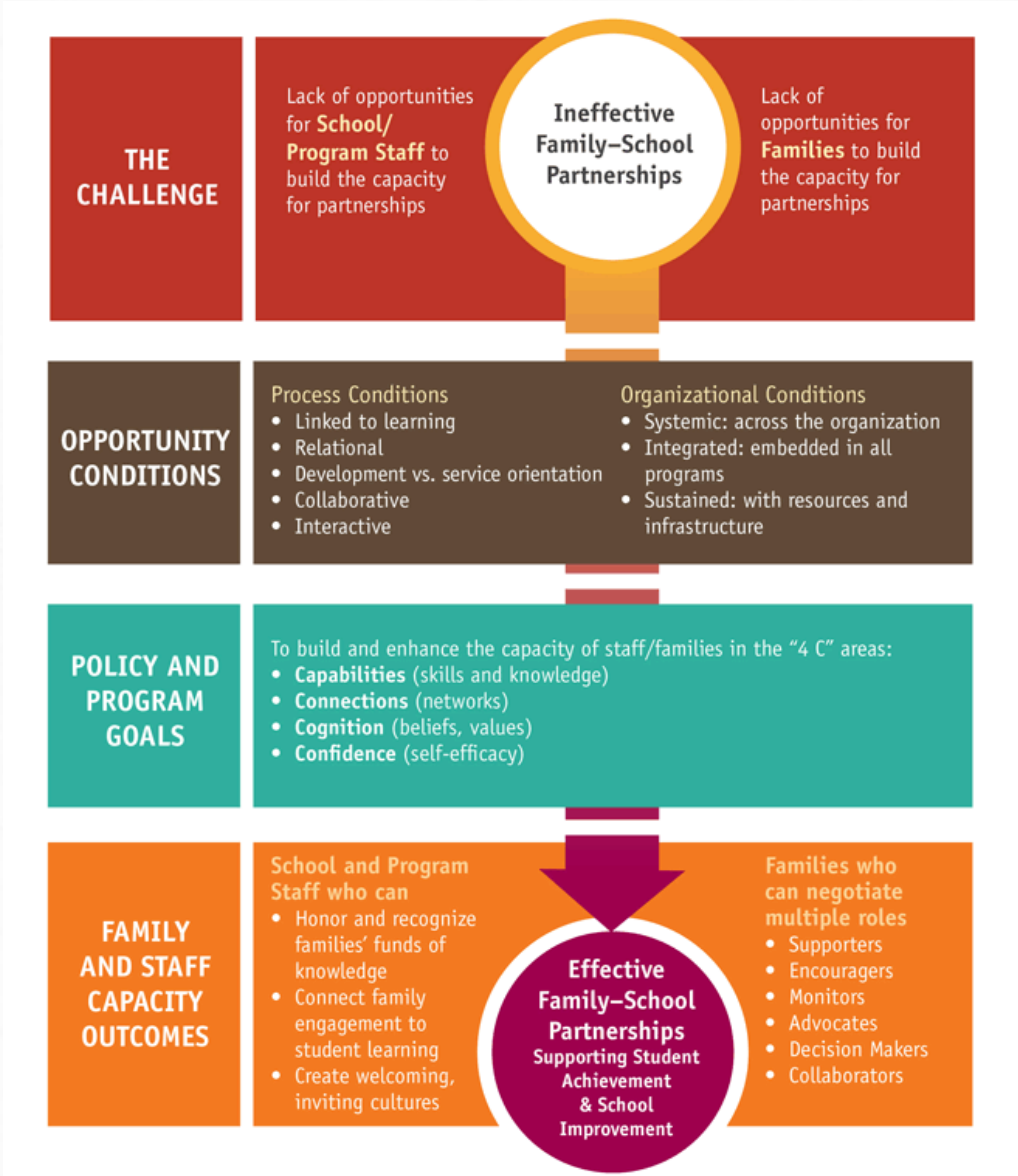
ED–HHS POLICY ON FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE PRACTICES

- Plan for & prioritize family engagement
- Communicate consistent messages supporting strong family engagement
- Invest & allocate adequate resources to support engagement
- Establish policies, procedures & practices that support engagement
  - Examples: promote use of recommended practices, create staff positions dedicated to engagement, provide professional development
- Establish workforce capacity building
- Develop and integrate engagement data for continuous improvement

Joint Policy Statement On Family Engagement From The Early Years To The Early Grades, 2016

DUAL CAPACITY-BUILDING FRAMEWORK



Mapp, Karen L., and Kuttner, Paul J. (2013). *Partners in Education: A Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family–School Partnerships*. SEDL

COMMON PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

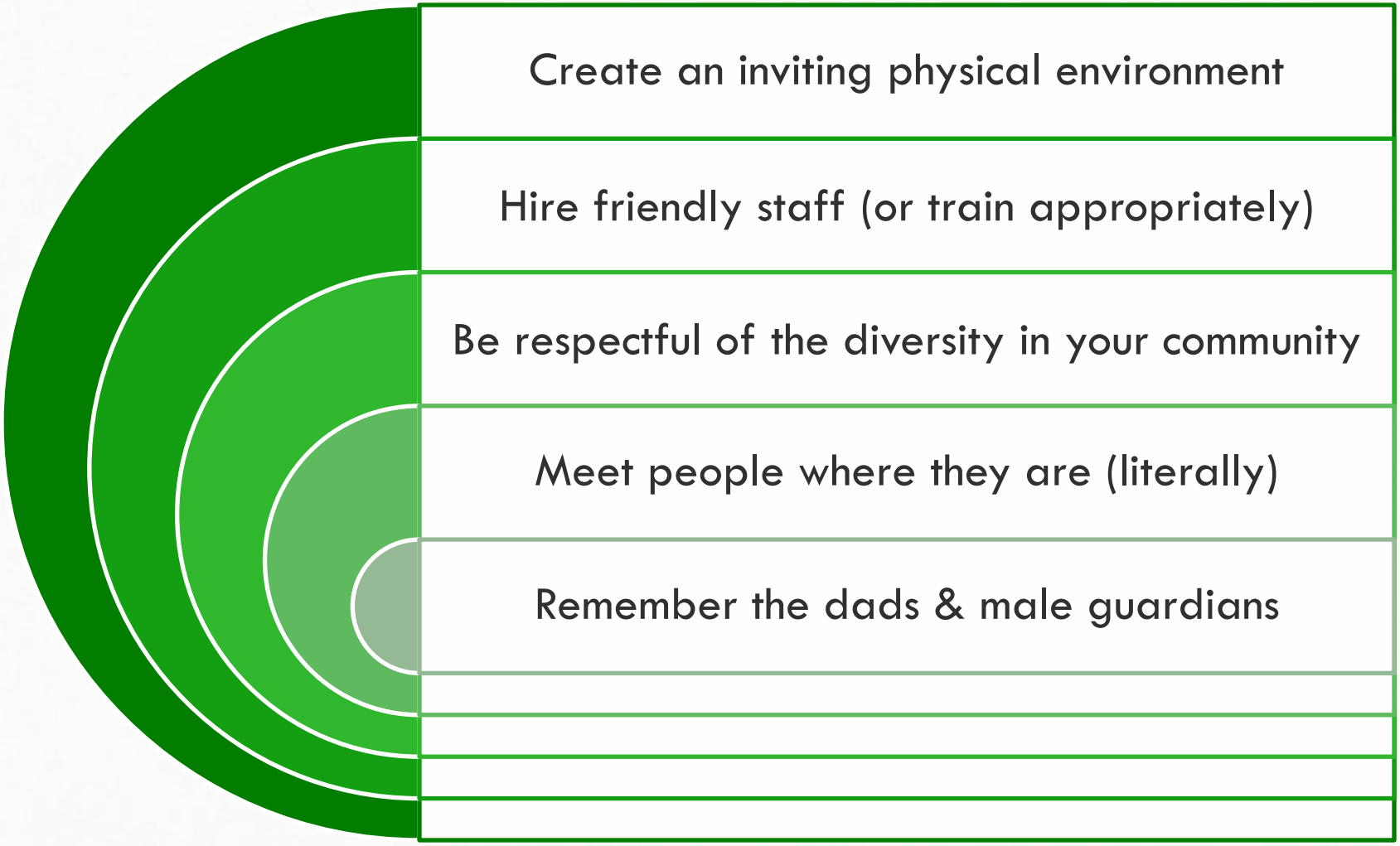
SUPPORT EQUITY TO ENSURE GOOD OUTCOMES FOR ALL CHILDREN

WHY ARE YOU INCLUDING FAMILIES?

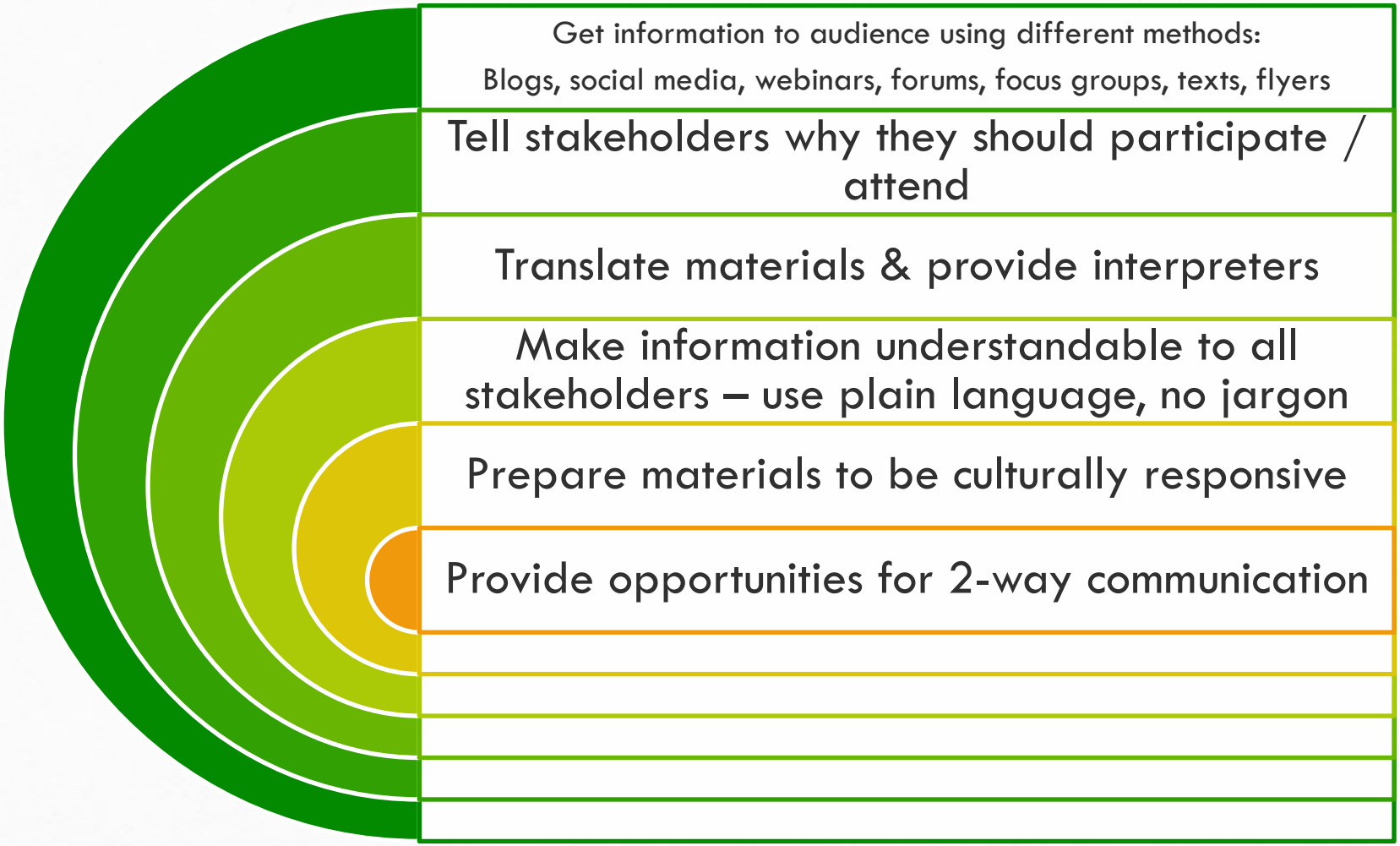
- Clarify your goals
  - What are you trying to accomplish?
  - Who would benefit most from the proposed activity or is most impacted by the proposed policy?
  - Are there any racial/economic disparities being addressed?
- Identify and engage stakeholders
  - What families should be involved? Why would they want to be involved?
  - Reach out to diverse groups
  - Consider community demographics – race, economics, language, neighborhood
  - Go outside of the normal participants

Adapted from *Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Stakeholder Engagement Guide*

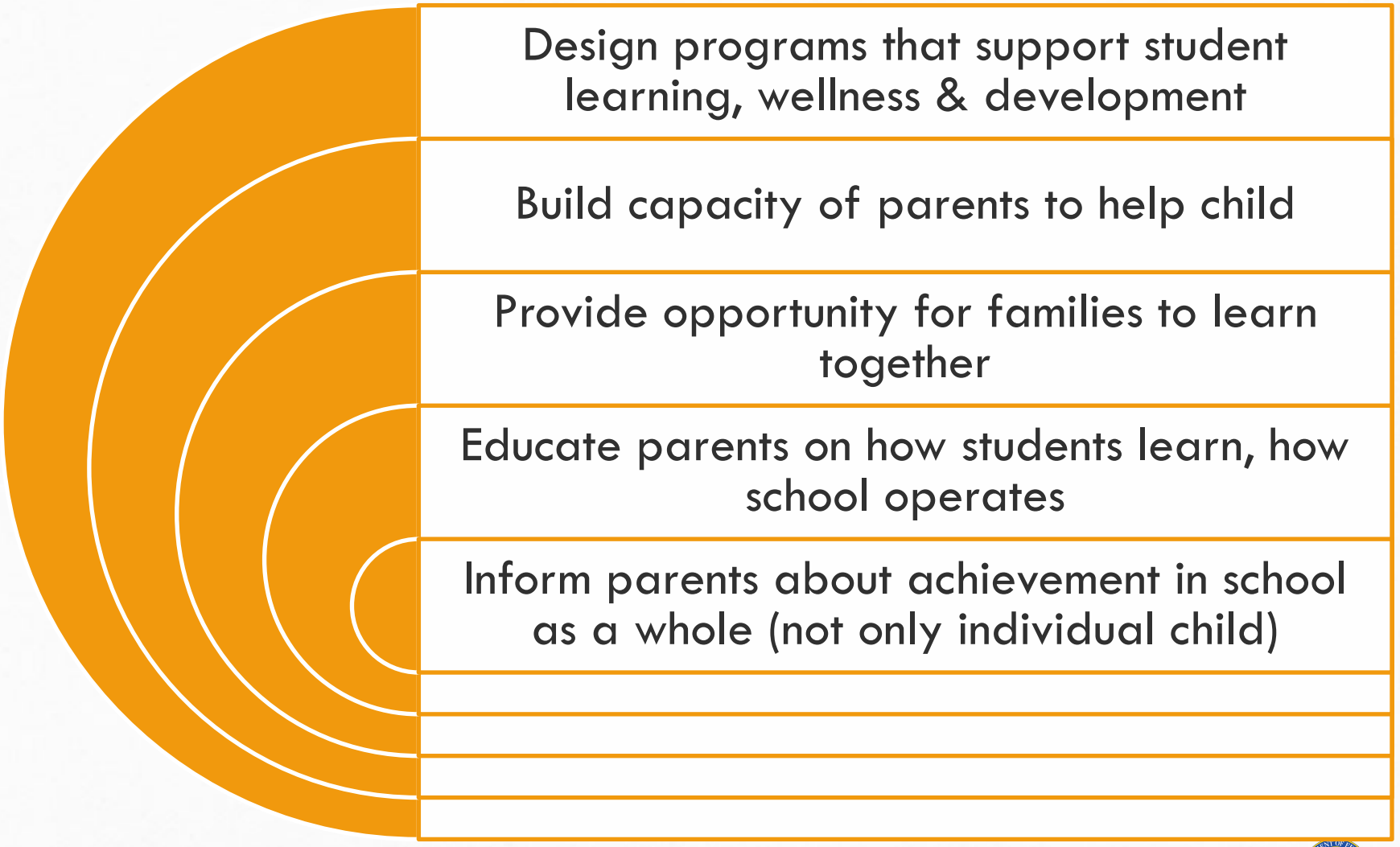
EXAMPLES OF HOW TO: WELCOME ALL FAMILIES



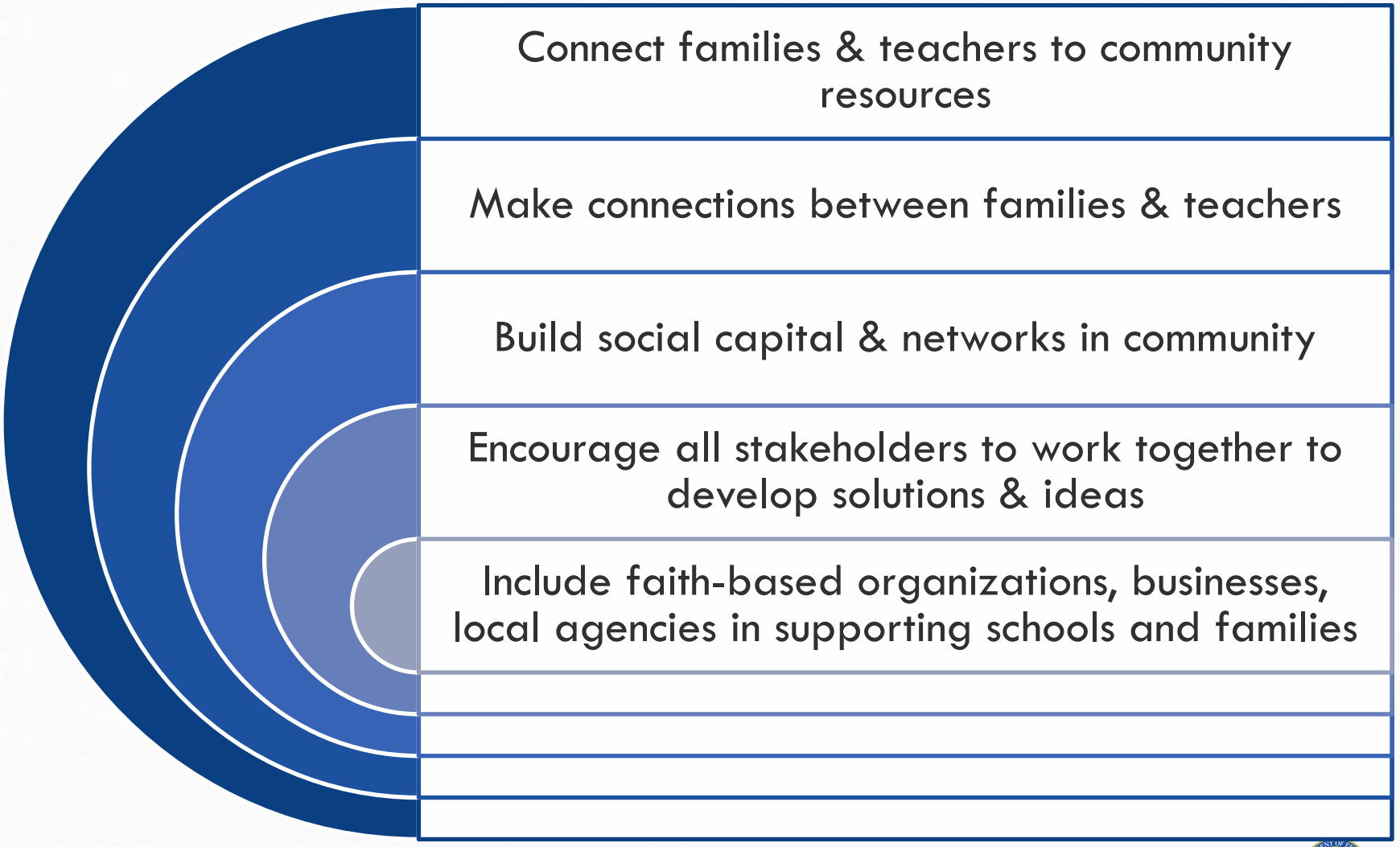
EXAMPLES OF HOW TO: EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE



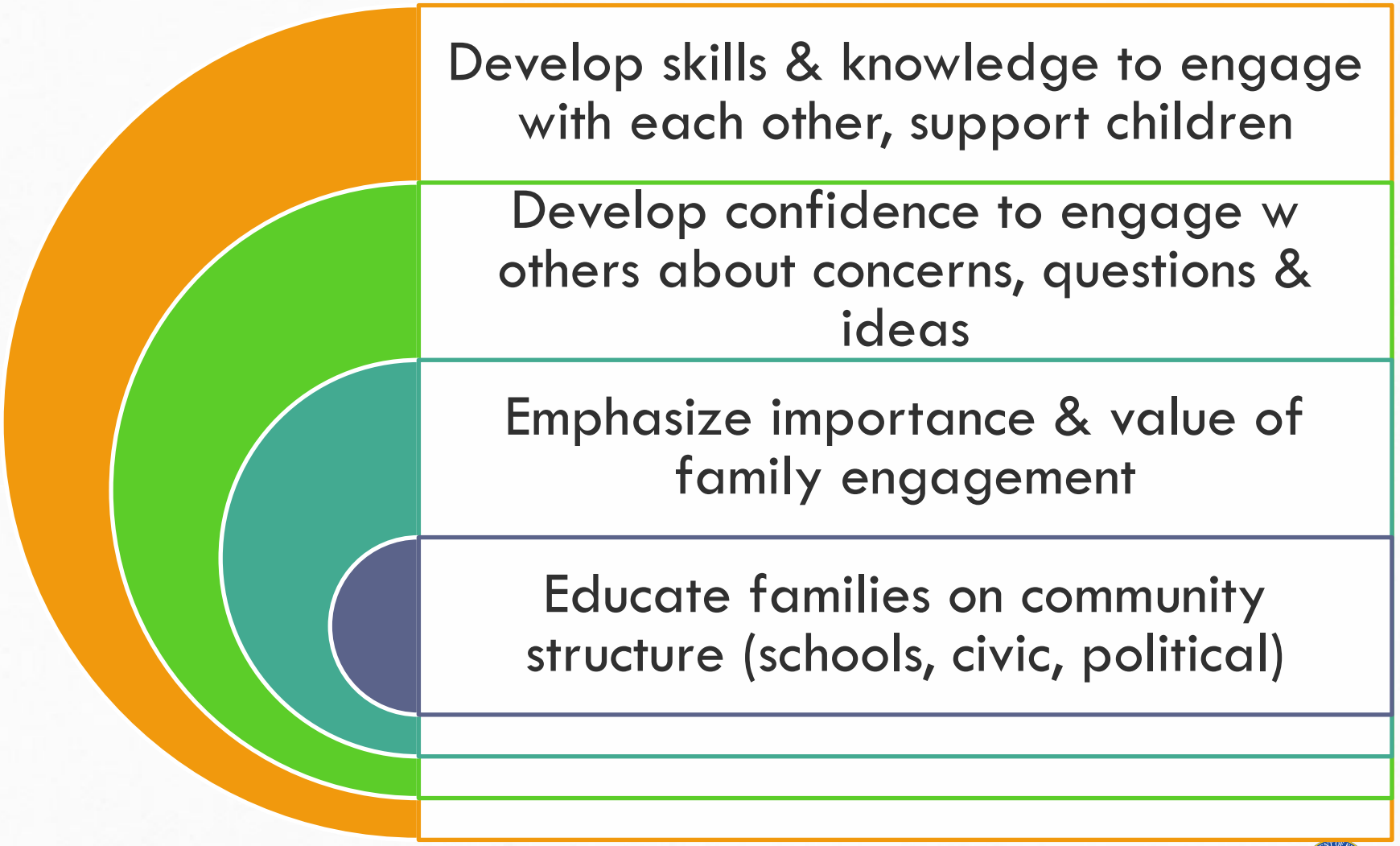
EXAMPLES OF HOW TO: LINK TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



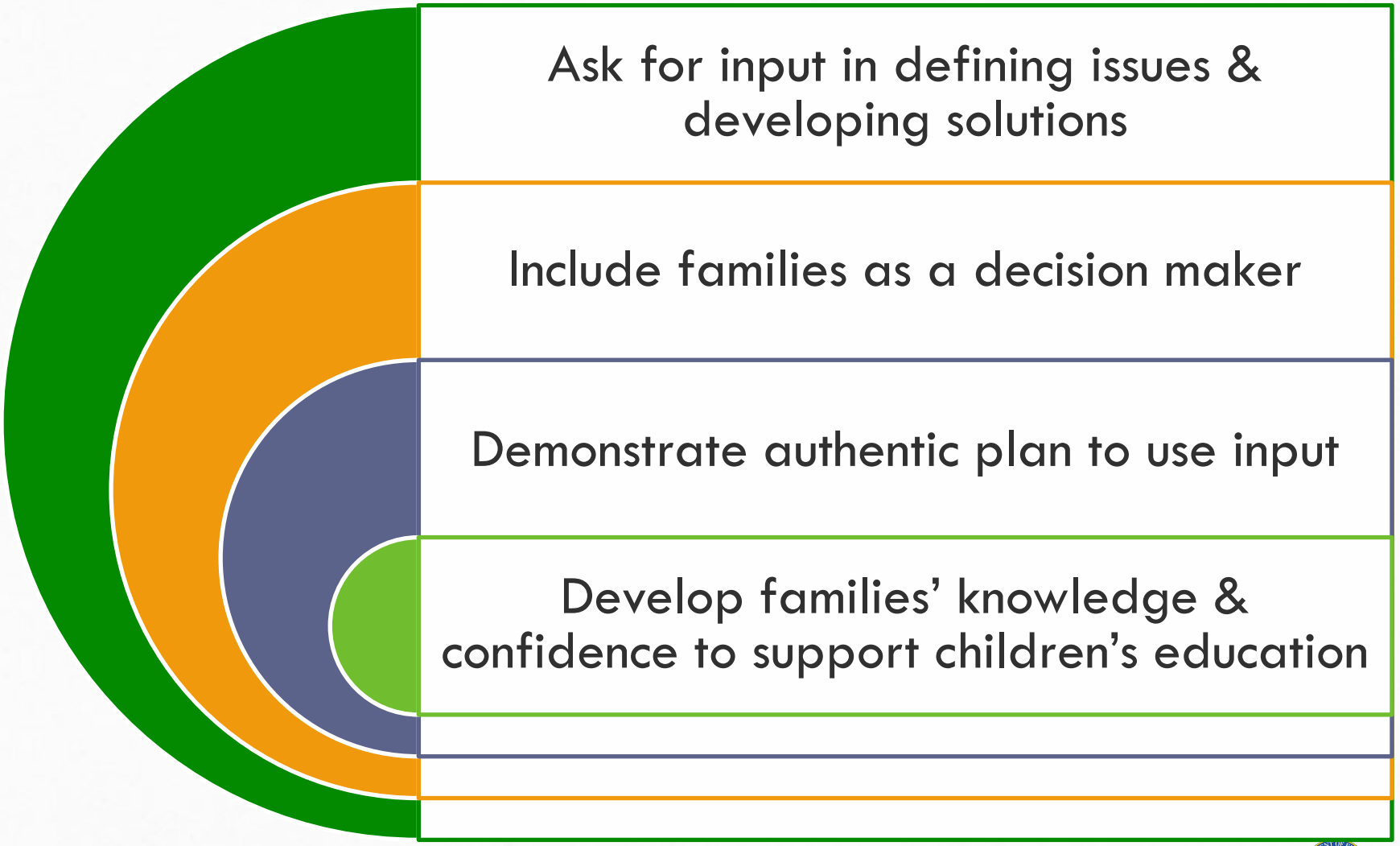
EXAMPLES OF HOW TO: BUILD COMMUNITY



EXAMPLES OF HOW TO: BUILD CAPACITY OF STAFF & FAMILIES



EXAMPLES OF HOW TO: EMPOWER FAMILIES



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Discuss one engagement strategy or best practice utilized by your school/program to meaningfully engage with parents and families.

Questions?

RESOURCES

From ED

- Family and School Partnership
  - http://www.jff.org/sites/default/files/iniatiatives/files/Family-School%20Partnership-010517.FINAL_.pdf
- Dual Capacity-Building Framework
  - https://www2.ed.gov/documents/family-community/partners-education.pdf
- ED – HHS Policy Statement On Family Engagement From The Early Years To The Early Grades, 2016
  - http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/earlylearning/families.html
- Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Publications (RSN Strategic Communications Resources)
  - http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/implementation-support-unit/tech-assist/resources.html#sce

HOW TO STAY IN CONTACT/INFORMED

FRANCES FROST, FAMILY AMBASSADOR

Office of Elementary & Secondary Education

U.S. Department of Education

- Email: frances.frost@ed.gov
- Twitter: @FamiliesatED
- Department of Education website
  - Family & Community Engagement Page
    http://www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement
  - *Homeroom* blog: http://blog.ed.gov/
  - *Engaging Families* & *Touching Base* Newsletters:
    http://www2.ed.gov/news/newsletters/index.html

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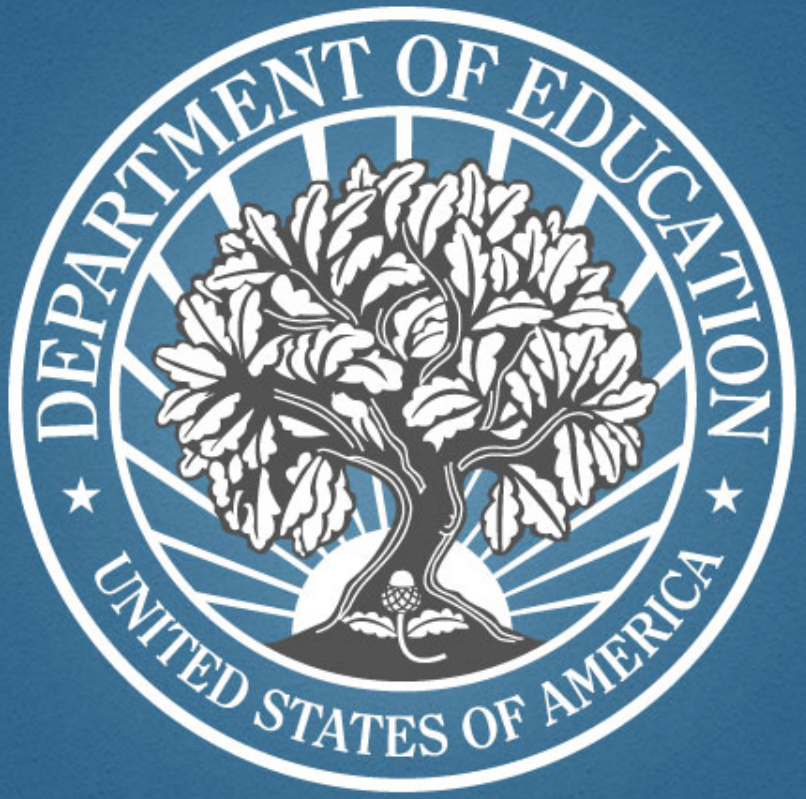
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