

SD EL Chat #4



April 2018

Thank you all for joining us for our SD EL Chat #4. The topic of the SD EL Chat #4 was on *Engaging EL Families*. We had great conversation regarding families that we decided to continue the conversation at the next chat!

Questions discussed:

- Q1: What does family engagement mean to you?
- Q2: What are common challenges educators face when engaging EL families?
- Q3: What are some solutions to the challenges discussed?

Thoughts that were shared:

What does family engagement mean to you?

- Schools and parents working together to improve student learning
- It is more than just including them, but actually getting families to support education in their children
- Involving and engaging families into the school culture and the community to help them and their child succeed in school

What are some challenges educators face?

- Cultural Differences
- Logistics
- Language Barriers
- Mindset

What are some solutions?

Cultural Differences

- Book Studies, for example: *Enrique's Journey*, *Burro Genius*, *the Newcomers*, and *The Naming Jar*, *I am a Hutterite* etc.
- Multicultural nights

Language Barriers

- Provide interpreters, have consistent people who will be at conferences so families have the opportunity to build trust
- Connect families with community resources

- Provide adult ESL classes for parents

Logistics

- Provide transportation for parents
- Provide child care
- Schedule conferences at times where EL parents can attend

Mindset

What we see as not involved, might mean that parents are working two jobs. Let's change our mindset!

Scenario:

My students' parents work late shifts and cannot be involved in their child's education

Reframe this: My students' parents are doing everything they can to support their family, and a demanding work schedule is evidence of this. How can I support them?

Let's continue the conversation! Add to our SD EL Chat Padlet!

https://padlet.com/gwyneth_witte/bgly9hdmb1vn

Resources that were shared:

- [New Wave of Evidence- The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement](#)
- [A Guide for Engaging ELL Families: Twenty Strategies for School Leaders](#)
- [Guide to Inspiring Partnerships Between Home and School](#)

Hope to see you there!