

The Department of Education should develop a clear definition of parent engagement, that connects to the Framework for Great Schools, keeping at its center the belief that parental involvement is about engaging in **meaningful partnerships**, responsible leadership and capacity-building.

### Meaningful Partnerships

- Policy & Advocacy: include parent perspective prior to the development of new policies in areas across all education law, not just education law related to parent engagement
- Develop strategic joint planning meetings between CPAC, ECC and DOE
- Provide opportunities for Parent Leaders to participate in projects where they can practice their leadership and advocacy skills by engaging with DOE, elected officials, school administrators and the community at large on important education issues impacting NYC public schools
- District Superintendents should meet annually with Councils and DLT members to discuss important areas for training district PC's district level support of parent leader groups (mandated Saturday Trainings, funding and resources)
- Both Education Councils and Presidents Council should be involved in the formation of the district PIP's on an annual basis. The district PIP must include: (1) A plan for parent participation in the schools which is designed to improve parent and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, attendance and discipline; and (2) Procedures by which parents may learn about the course of study for their children and have access to all learning materials and require the sign-off from both CEC's and President's Councils on District Parent Involvement Policies
- Every eligible parent/family in public schools should have a single vote during the election of Education Councils\*

### Capacity Building

Dept. of Family and Community Engagement: DFACE should act as a resource center and mediator **not** a "supervisor" of Community Education Councils and Parent Associations by way of:

- Clearly define standard practices across councils
- Provide mock meetings as training tool for councils and Parent Associations
- Providing access to a resource database of services and supports including but not limited to, leadership training; conflict resolution; English classes; childcare for children 3+ years and transportation; for parent organizations to tap into
- Resource databased – mediation center, budget, parliamentary procedures
- Assist community organizations in providing training to develop parents' leadership skills so they can engage more fully in their child's school governance (ex. Annual Spring PA/PTA info sessions, before the June 30<sup>th</sup> election deadlines; led by outside organizations)

- Provide mandatory training for Parent Coordinators; including best practices and sensitivity training on interacting with multilingual and culturally diverse families, families in temporary housing, mediation skills and CR A-660
- In depth training of CEC Administrative Assistants

### **Parent Engagement: School to Home**

- DOE should provide an example of a School Welcome Area
- Require that all Parent Coordinators Office become a Welcome & Parent Resource Center
- Increase accountability for the implementation of parent engagement policies
- Introduce C-Regulations that require all districts with high percentages of ESL parents to include in their PIP, plans to engage communities with language barriers
- Include in the school evaluation, an assessment of Parent Coordinators outreach and relationship with the parent community served. (train and audit the office of the Parent Coordinator)
- Introduce C-Regulation that outlines the role and responsibility of the Parent Coordinator to the Parent community served; hold Principals accountable for the misuse of Parent Coordinator time (as both a violation of their labor contract and the disservice to the schools parent community);
- Instilling, as a citywide practice, the importance of integrating culturally-based educational values into the school setting; promoting language; cultural traditions reflective of the ethnic communities served. (school by school basis)
- Audit the outcome and resolution of 311 complaints on district wide basis to ensure that resolutions were provided