



San Francisco Board of Education
Parent Advisory Council

Report to the Board of Education

December 8, 2015

The role of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to represent parent voices and perspectives to inform Board of Education policy decisions. This report addresses the PAC's ongoing commitment to supporting the development of a district-wide **Strategic Family Engagement Plan**.

Status of SFUSD Family Engagement Plan

In our October report to the Board we shared one of our priority areas is advocating for the development, adoption and implementation of a **Strategic Family Engagement Plan**, to support and strengthen the **implementation of the SFUSD Family Engagement Standards**.

We are nearly half way through the school year and still without a coherent family engagement plan, with concrete timelines and adequate resources to support its implementation. The PAC believes in order for family engagement to truly be an effective strategy to support student success, and improve school culture and climate, school communities need a clear vision, support to build their capacity and indicators to guide this work.

Indicators validate efforts that are working well and surface areas that need improvement. They illuminate opportunities to provide additional support to our students and include their families in the process, building strong relationships.

Over the years, the PAC has heard families echo the concern that they are not alerted early enough when their children are struggling academically – not until after the report card comes home or at parent-teacher conferences when it is too late to intervene for that cycle. This example highlights the ongoing need for improved communication between staff and families as partners in their students' education. Indicators developed to measure progress, effectiveness and the impact of two-way communication, a district family engagement standard, could help provide direction on how to address this type of concern.

It is clear family engagement is a priority. Last week Congress released legislation emphasizing the importance of parent and family engagement and the key role it plays in supporting student success. Additionally, SFUSD's accountability systems - from the federal CORE waiver (School Quality Improvement Index) to the state's Local Control and Accountability Plan to our very own local Balance Score Card process - all require family engagement to ensure students are successful.

We recognize this work takes human resources, time and commitment. It also requires setting the expectation, cultivating the culture and creating the conditions for family engagement to take root in a systemic way. A strategic plan and the resources to support its implementation are crucial for both district staff and families to uphold the SFUSD Family Engagement Standards in a consistent manner across the district.

The PAC welcomes the opportunity to support the development of a written plan, along with other community members, to ensure diverse perspectives are included in the process.

Our Children, Our Families Outreach Campaign Update

Last week the PAC finished leading its last community conversations to gather input for the **Our Children, Our Families Council** (OCOF) for the development of Council's five-year plan. In short, we reached over 250 parents and community members through 20 conversations. We will share our findings and recommendation in the January PAC report.

Next PAC Meeting

The next PAC meeting is tomorrow Wednesday, December 9th. We will have a presentation on the **TK-5th Grade Report Card Revision Project**. PAC members will have a chance to provide feedback on the latest draft, which is designed to align with the new content standards of the common core curriculum.

If you have any questions or comments about this report, or the PAC's work in general, please contact the PAC at (415) 355-2201, or at pac@sfusd.edu. You can also visit our website at www.pacsf.org