

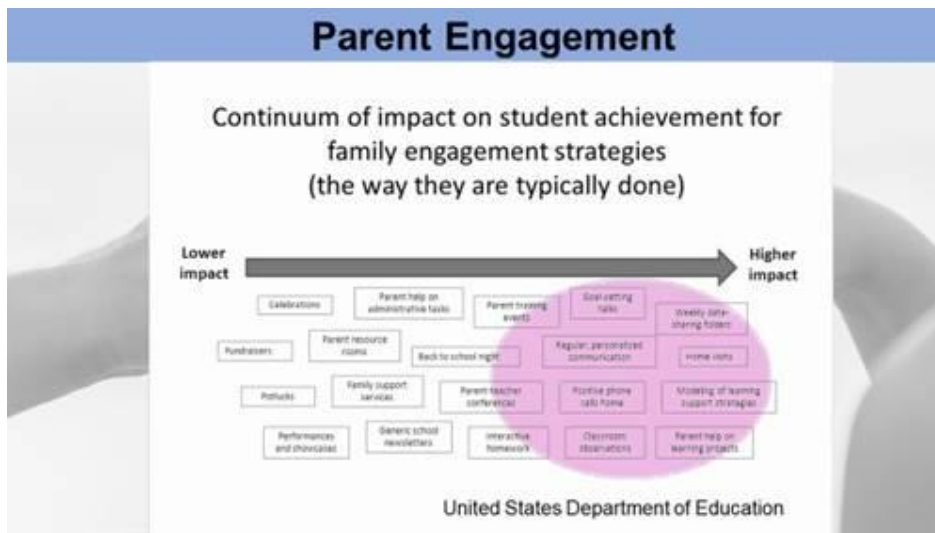
School Councils Conference Closing Plenary April 24, 2021

Parent Engagement – A Conversation with Dr. Debbie Pushor

From Dr. Debbie Pushor:

I wanted to follow up on some of the requests in the session chat before life gets in the way!

Here is a slide from one of my ppts with the information from the US Department of Education on high impact and low impact parent engagement strategies. Notice that the higher impact strategies are directly related to teaching and learning. They also tend to be more personalized, with a closer association to a particular child and their learning profile. The lower impact strategies are parent involvement activities. They tend to be whole school and generalized events.

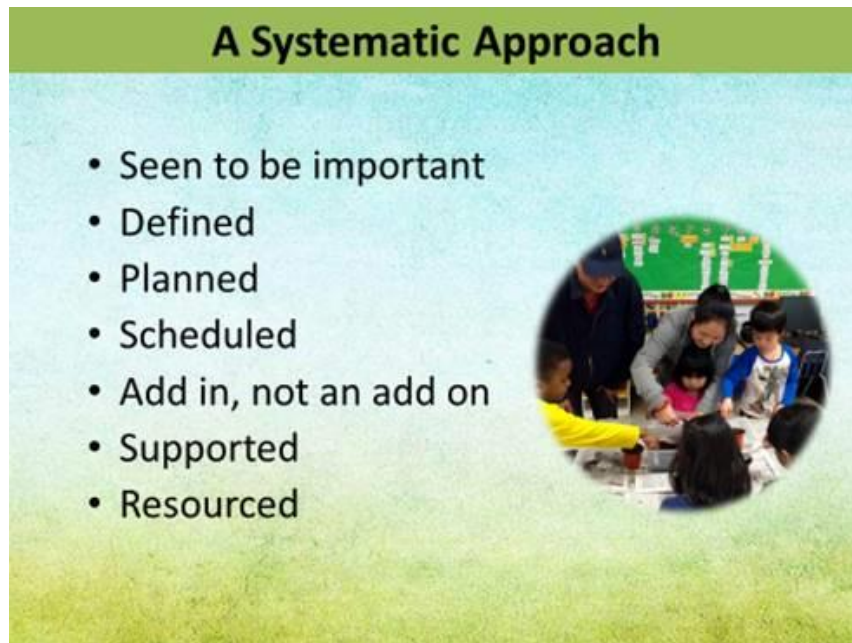


In regard to home visits, I am an absolute fan! More and more teachers here in SK are doing home visits (if they have taken classes or PD with me, in particular). The best place to learn about home visits is through the Parent Teacher Home Visit Program, www.pthvp.org. They have decades of success and they have research evidence posted on their website of the success of home visits in enhancing outcomes for students, teachers, and families! Everyone wins! I have visited them in Sacramento, attended their training workshop, and I follow them on Twitter. They are doing a great job on Twitter with teaching about and promoting home visits. I am working here in SK to begin a systematic approach to home visits (small pilot project to begin is what I am trying to establish), so wish me luck!

With the video series on parent engagement in the early years, *Care as a Bridge Between Us*, we focused one video on home visits (video 3). *Care As a Bridge Between Us* is a free course (funded by Govt of SK) and is being used by school staffs and parent councils as a source of free PD. Available at:

<https://www.debbiepushor.ca/courses/bridgebetweenus>

In regard to systematic parent engagement, I have done an entire study on this, so there is much I could share. I often use math to frame this conversation too, as an example in PD. I pose the question, "Is math happening in your school today?" Then, "How do you know?" Here is what I believe the response typically is:



A Systematic Approach

- Seen to be important
- Defined
- Planned
- Scheduled
- Add in, not an add on
- Supported
- Resourced

The slide features a circular inset image showing a teacher and several students gathered around a table, engaged in a learning activity. The background of the slide is a light green field with a blue sky.

Math is valued by our society.

We have curricular outcomes defined for each grade level.

It is planned for by teachers.

It is scheduled into the school day.

It is not done, if there is time, but is considered essential.

Teachers have education courses and PD in math.

It is resourced (textbooks, technology, hands on materials, consultants, etc).

If we want parent engagement to be a systematic element of our school systems, we have to apply these same criteria and translate them accordingly.

I think that answers some of the key things that came up in chat.

My best,

Debbie