

"We offer activities and willing parents come and participate" (Carreon, Drake, Barton p, 2005, p. 469). Educators, staff, and administrators are often quick to measure and define parental involvement. Families from minority, first-generation, low-income and other underserved backgrounds are told they are not complying with the parent involvement rules. Involvement often refers to the participation in an organized event, which includes individual's decision to participate (Carreon, Drake, Barton, 2005). Unfortunately, not many of us take the time to ask parents their valuable insight on education, home activities, and how they define parent engagement beyond the school parameters.

The purpose of this document is to share how College Academy for Parents (CAP) families define or describe "parent engagement". Families describe their engagement practices within the school setting and the home. However, findings also indicate that there is some confusion on what are valuable engagement practices and where do those take place. This document hopes to continue the dialogue on how we can continue to partner, support, respect, and empower families' current engagement practices (home and school activities) in order to enhance academic success and college preparedness.

Parent Involvement: Parent's interactions with schools, teachers and their children's schoolwork as essential to school success (attract parents to school functions, to encourage them to volunteer in their children's classes, and to teach parents how to tutor their children at home) (Valdes, 1996).

- Parent Meetings
- Organized and Planned Events
- Assist with homework
- Power dynamic

Parent/ Family engagement: recognizes families' experiences, culture, language, and formal and informal practices and skills as essential to their child's success. (Kiyama, 2010, Moll, Amanti, Neff, & Gonzalez, 1992).

- Wide range of home activities
- Strong emotional and academic support
- Storytelling and reading
- Mutual respect



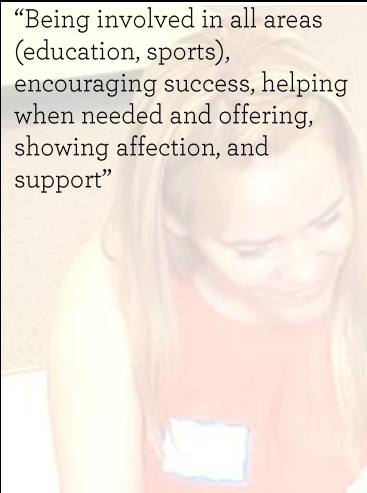
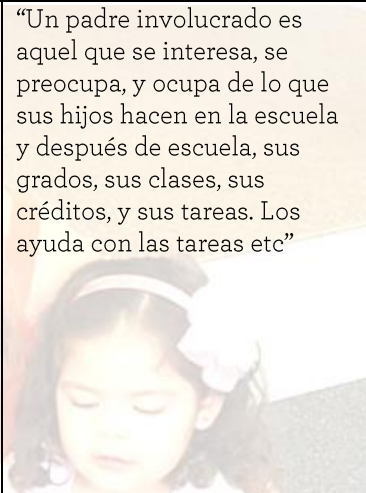
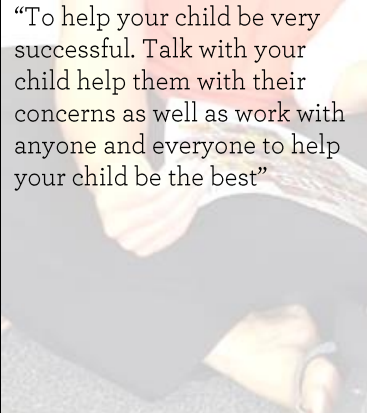
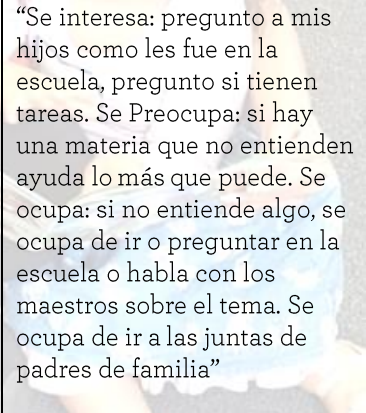
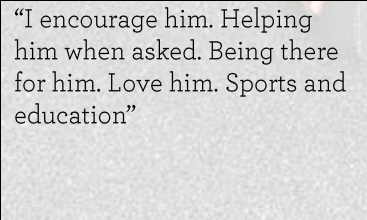
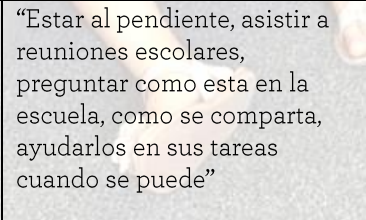
Figuroa Family. CAP 2006, 2014, 2015; Padres Promotores 2014, 2015

Why is this important?

- Parents and guardians from disadvantage backgrounds spend more time on daily home activities than in organized school events (Joan, Walker, Ice, Hoover-Dempsey, 2011).
- Families are key partners and want a better future for their children. Families' voices are often missing in education, and scholarship which means that parental involvement is not inclusive of issues of power and marginalization (Mapp, 2003).
- Redefine parent involvement in order to become more inclusive of the diverse populations and home activities that foster academic success and wellbeing (Valdes, 1996).

Recommendations:

- Create meaningful dialogues with families and build on what they are already doing, ie CAP families.
- Highlight the importance of parent engagement practices in student of the months, district parent councils, parent teacher meetings, and family gatherings.
- District Parent Council meetings can help further the conversation about how to bridge parent involvement and parent/family engagement, family oriented activities, families' needs in conjunction with the school's needs.
- Continue to partner and support parent led and family oriented programs.

2015 Examples: CAP Families define Parent Engagement			
English		Spanish	
Parent Involvement	Parent/Family engagement	Parent Involvement	Parent/Family Engagement
<p>"Parent engagement is when parents are actively engaged and involved in their student's academic career. It looks like knowing what's going on in student classrooms and learning"</p>	<p>"Being involved in all areas (education, sports), encouraging success, helping when needed and offering, showing affection, and support"</p> 	<p>"Un padre involucrado es aquel que se interesa, se preocupa, y ocupa de lo que sus hijos hacen en la escuela y después de escuela, sus grados, sus clases, sus créditos, y sus tareas. Los ayuda con las tareas etc"</p> 	<p>"Creo que un padre involucrado no es pedir las más altas calificaciones si no ayudar en las áreas débiles y que pueda estar con ellos para apoyarlos también emocionalmente por que puede llegar un momento que sientan que ya no pueden avanzar. Yo siempre les digo "tu puedes, porque los estas intentando y por esa razón sé que lo lograras" siempre les digo "el que persevera alcanza"</p>
<p>"To support your kids throughout the school and ensure they get the credits and the funding they need to go to college"</p>	<p>"To help your child be very successful. Talk with your child help them with their concerns as well as work with anyone and everyone to help your child be the best"</p> 	<p>"Se interesa: pregunto a mis hijos como les fue en la escuela, pregunto si tienen tareas. Se Preocupa: si hay una materia que no entienden ayuda lo más que puede. Se ocupa: si no entiende algo, se ocupa de ir o preguntar en la escuela o habla con los maestros sobre el tema. Se ocupa de ir a las juntas de padres de familia"</p> 	<p>"Por ejemplo en nuestro hogar hay tiempo para las mañanas y por la noche para platicar de lo que hacemos durante el día. Una actividad que como familia disfrutamos mucho es leer, en nuestra familia hay un reto de un libro al mes que van desde biografías, desarrollo personal, y otros temas. Seguimos el lema de 'Reading avoids extinction'"</p>
<p>"Parent engagement is being involved in your students academics, school etc"</p>	<p>"I encourage him. Helping him when asked. Being there for him. Love him. Sports and education"</p> 	<p>"Estar al pendiente, asistir a reuniones escolares, preguntar como esta en la escuela, como se compartía, ayudarlos en sus tareas cuando se puede"</p> 	<p>"Alguien que apoya a sus hijos y que quieran que sean alguien bien y con estudios y para un trabajo seguro"</p>

Families' examples	English total	Spanish total
Parent Engagement	8	13
Parent Involvement	7	5
Both	2	18