

Family Engagement Report

School: Louisville Elementary School

Principal: Jennifer Rocke

SIT is one of many ways we gain parent input, support, and assistance in implementing our School Improvement Plan. Communication with parents occurs often, and there are many opportunities offered to parents to encourage engagement in the school improvement process. Please refer to the attachment provided for specific ways parents engage in the School Improvement Process at Louisville Elementary School.

Parent Involvement in the SIP Process & Communication with Parents regarding TIES and SIP, 2009-10

- **August and September *Panther Press* Newsletter Articles:** The August/September issue reviewed our school's attainment of 2008-09 SIP goals, as well as 2009 CSAP data, district literacy data, and School Climate data. The September/October issue included information about some of the Parent/Community Strategies we are using in our 2009-10 SIP plan.
- **Main Entrance Bulletin Board** - At the main entrance to our building are three large bulletin boards, which have posted on them the following SIP information: 3 separate sections for Achievement goal, Equity goal, and Climate goal, summary of LES and BVSD longitudinal data, summary of LES and BVSD Achievement gap data, CSAP growth score information, BVSD Climate Surveys (Students, Staff, and Parent surveys), LES internal Climate Survey Information, Inquiry 5 School Improvement Plans for Achievement, Equity, & Climate goals.
- **Louisville Elementary School Website:** Includes our School Accountability Report. It also includes links to the new Guaranteed Viable Curriculum, calendars of events, parent information, and links to BVSD and community resources. After this year's school improvement plan is completed, Inquiries 4 and 5 will be posted as links on this page.
- **Open Forum:** At one of our SIT (School Improvement Team) meetings during the 2008-09 school year, parents suggested a new venue for parent communication. The "Open Forum" concept and subsequent meetings were created as a result of this suggestion through collaboration between parents and administration. As communicated through the 2008-09 and 2009-10 *Panther Press* newsletters, the Open Forum gives parents an avenue to discuss school improvement ideas and to celebrate progress at LES. If a parent has an idea that involves a school wide issue, the Open Forum is the avenue for them to share and brainstorm with other parents and the principal.
- **Parent Handbook:** Distributed to all parents at Early August Assessment days. The handbook includes in three separate sections a description of the SIT process, the Professional Support Team (PST) process, and a description of TIES.

- **SIT Team:** All parents are invited to attend SIT meetings via Panther Press, school marquee notification, and Friday Folder flyers, free babysitting for meetings is provided via the PTA & the school. For a variety of reasons, not all parents choose to participate at the plan development level. At the plan development level, parent representation included parents of students who are designated as TaG and Hispanic, as well as parents of students without these designations. More parents participate in the SIP implementation phase. At this phase other parent representation is included, parents of students who are in Special Education, as well as parents of students who are on Meal Assistance, assist and lead action strategies listed in our SIP plan.

SIT met September 2, 2009, at this meeting the principal reviewed the TIES, SIP, and DAC process, and their connection to SIT. Specifically, training included background on the TIES model, foundational concepts of the TIES model, including research, the steps of the TIES process, and key components of the TIES model (i.e., equity, transformation, reproduction, Chicago Public Schools research on 'relational trust,' etc.).

Our SIT team met again on September 23, 2009 for 2.5 hours. Dinner was provided. At this meeting we went through the TIES steps, and parents created their Parent/Community Action Strategies, Inquires 3 and 5, for our Achievement, Equity, and Climate goals. At this meeting, parents were provided a summary of data that included:

- * Progress on last years' goals
- * Assessing Current Reality - Statements and Evidence
- * Patterns to celebrate
- * Patterns that represent challenges
- * Priority challenges
- * Theory of Action statements for goals
- * SMART goals

Our SIT team also met on October 7, 2009 to review the final draft of Inquiry 5 for all three goals (Achievement, Equity, and Climate).

Teachers and parent SIT team members meet monthly after our SIP plan is complete. Our November through May meetings will include DAC reports and implementation and planning of our SIP Action Strategies, as well as progress monitoring information.

Execution on the SIP plan at LES involves a high percentage of parent participation and incorporates a wider scope of parents than in the plan development stage. Our parent Volunteer Coordinators, Diana Walley (2009-10) and Jessie Kowalski, (2007-09) have done an incredible job of orchestrating the masses. Diana and Jessie work with our office staff in regards to logistic execution and parent involvement opportunities. We have a variety of parent groups/meetings at LES (Inclusive Community Meetings, PTA Executive Board Meetings, TaG Parent Meetings). Ideas for our SIP are gathered from all of these parent groups. Parents assist us in a variety of ways, which can be further explained in the PowerPoint attached to this year's SIP report.