

## Parent Focus Group Questions on Parent Involvement and Engagement with the School

### Opening questions:

1. What does your child like about school? What do you like about your child's school?
2. Do you feel welcome in your child's school? If yes, what does school staff do that shows you that you are welcome?
  1. **If no**, what could the school do differently that would make you feel welcome?
3. Are you satisfied with how often and in what way school staff communicates with you about your child?
4. About school activities? (give examples)
  1. **If yes**, what are they doing that is helpful?
  2. **If no**, what would you like them to do differently?
5. What do you do to prepare your child to do well in school?
6. What do you consider to be the parent or family's role in a child's education?

Schools talk about the importance of "Parent Involvement" or "Parent Engagement." Schools use these terms to mean several different things. Some of the main ways parents are "involved"—or participate are by:

- Volunteering in the classroom or at school events or activities;
  - Attending school events such as Orientation, Open House, Family Nights and meetings about your child such as parent-teacher conferences;
  - Working with your child at home on homework, reading to your child, preparing them for school;
  - Being a part of a group that advises the school or helps make decisions such as the school site council.
7. How does the school ask you to be involved?
  8. How does this work for your family?
  9. What kind of school activities do you like to attend?

10. What would you like to do to help your child in their schooling but don't know how to do?
11. What could the school do to help you be more involved?
12. What kind of things has the school done that helped you to help your child more at home?
13. Is there anything else you would like us to know about what is important to you as a family about your child's education?