

STEVEN M. CONSTANTINO
FOREWORD BY KIRSTEN BAESLER



SECOND
EDITION

ENGAGE EVERY FAMILY

FIVE SIMPLE PRINCIPLES

CORWIN

Thank you

FOR YOUR
INTEREST IN
CORWIN

Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from *Engage Every Family, Second Edition*. In this culture activity, it takes data collecting a step further to understand the beliefs and attitudes of staff members.

CORWIN

ACTIVITY

School-Family Culture Inventory

Earlier in the book, a short survey to gauge your school's efforts with family engagement was introduced. This culture inventory takes data collecting a step further to understand the beliefs and attitudes of staff members. Distribute this survey to staff, either on paper or online, and average the responses for each statement.

For each of the statements below, rate your answer by circling the appropriate number on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Calculate your final score by averaging the cumulative scores. (Add the total of the scale numbers and divide by 10.) This quick inventory can be taken by one person or everyone on your staff. It is designed to give you a snapshot of the present culture of your school with regard to the beliefs, values, and attitudes surrounding family engagement. An average score of between 1-2 is considered below standard. A score of 4-5 is considered at or above standard.

1. The core values of my school are inclusive of strong family engagement in learning.	Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree
2. I believe that every family wants to be engaged with their children's school experiences.	Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree
3. I believe that I am the primary catalyst for building relationships with families.	Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree
4. Family engagement is a priority at my school.	Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree
5. I believe that student ability to learn is ultimately derived from their family background.	Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree
6. I believe that families value my efforts to successfully teach their children.	Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree
7. I believe that family engagement is valued by all school staff.	Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree
8. I believe that it is the desire of every family that their children be successful.	Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree

(Continued)

(Continued)

9. Decision making at my school is collaborative and inclusive of student and family voice.						
Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree
10. I believe that family apathy toward learning is minimal or nonexistent.						
Strongly Disagree	1	2	3	4	5	Strongly Agree

Scoring Rubric for the School-Family Culture Inventory

Scoring Rubric

The following rubric is designed to help you determine the present culture of your school as it relates to family engagement. First, determine your score by adding the scores for each of the ten questions together.

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

Total (add together scores for each of the 10 statements): _____

Divide the total above by 10: _____

Take the final score from the step above and plot it on the scoring line below:



Interpreting Your Score

1-2.5

If your score falls within this range, there is much work to do on creating a culture to engage every family. Scores in this range suggest that there is little or no organizational focus or importance placed on engaging every family in the academic lives of their children and that there is no evidence of a concerted effort to focus on those families that are disengaged and disenfranchised from the school or their child's experiences and learning in school. The perceptions, assumptions, and attitudes about families incorporate doubt that families wish to be engaged or care deeply about the learning success of their children. It is

(Continued)

(Continued)

possible that negative attitudes toward families or certain families drive a culture of mistrust and, potentially, fear. A score in this range is evidence that there is a strong need to strengthen relationships between school staff and families as well as build the capacity of staff in understanding the relationships of family engagement and successful student learning. A score in this range also is an indication of procedures and practices within the school that are not conducive to engaging every family. There is little evidence that the culture is able to sustain family engagement in such a way as to impact student learning in a positive fashion.

2.5–4

If your score falls within this range, there is evidence that attention is being paid to the importance of engaging every family in the academic lives of their children. Emerging within the school culture may be core beliefs, values, and goals that are inclusive of family engagement. School staff may be inconsistent in their knowledge and approach to family engagement, but generally speaking, they desire that all families be engaged with learning and school experiences. There is evidence that perceptions and assumptions about families may be more positive than negative and that there is a growing desire to be inclusive of family engagement in the overall improvement process of the school. There is some emerging evidence that suggests the school is moving toward engaging families and promoting their efficacy.

4–5

If your score falls within this range, it suggests that family engagement is a strong component of the school's core beliefs, mission, and vision. At this level, school staff most likely understand and welcome the engagement of families and perceptions about families; their desires and beliefs are generally positive and accurate. School staff see the efforts as strategic to the overall effort to promote continuous improvement in the school. Perceptions of families and their contributions to learning are generally positive. With a positive culture of family engagement, the likelihood of promoting or being able to promote family efficacy is quite high.