



Family Engagement Practices and Initiatives: Core Principle 1: Creating a Welcoming Environment

Definition

A welcoming school environment and culture is one that builds trust and connection among students, families, educators, and other stakeholders. It is responsive to individual strengths and needs and ensures that all members of the community feel like valued contributors to students' academic achievement and healthy development.

What does it look like in practice?

- a. Families have a personal relationship with one or more school staff members and feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions.
- b. Families entering the school are greeted personally, have a clear sense of where to go, and find the overall environment inviting.
- c. Information about school and community programs related to child and family needs is available in common areas for families.
- d. There are opportunities for family members to participate in meaningful volunteer opportunities within the school.
- e. School activities for families are designed with the individual needs and interests of all families of the school and are unbiased towards the socioeconomic status, culture, language, or ability of the families in the school.