

May 6th, 2021

SPDG Directors' Webinar Discussion Transcript

Jennifer Coffey:

Have you ever included family members in your evaluation system (creating the questions, data collection, analysis)?

If yes, what did that look like?

What did you learn?

Kristen Brown/CO Director Office of Learning Supports:

Our Districts have to complete a family engagement survey every year.

Selina Merrell:

We do a survey as well.

Theresa Farmer:

WeFamily survey information and information gathered at our annual Family Focus meetings for parents of Transition aged students.

Theresa Farmer:

Premature send: We use yearly Family Survey information. We use information gathered from family members who attend the annual Family Focus meetings for parents of Transition age students.

Jennifer Coffey:

Thank you, Theresa.

Maren Henderson (she/her):

Reflection questions (aloud or in chat): What do YOU believe about students and families in the districts you support? How do you act upon your beliefs? Do any of the beliefs we shared stand out to you?

Jennifer Coffey:

What do you believe about students and families in the districts you support?

Lucinda Kelley:

They love each other very much but they are sometimes overwhelmed with life stressors which impact achievement and access to resources.

Hollie Filce:

We believe that families must be a part of all decisions and planning.

We find that sometimes schools ask employees of the district to also participate as "parents" on the team.

SPDG 3.0 K-12 Initiatives:

#1 is critical to getting past participation to engagement, whether it is about family events or IEP meetings or homework support.

GA Karen Suddeth:

FPE is an important component of infrastructure. If infrastructure is not solidly in place, it could be a barrier to success.

Theresa Farmer:

We believe families should be a critical part of school and community decisions. We ask district partners to include parent representation when we schedule MOU meetings. We have a long way to go.

Peg S:

There is a huge difference between participation or involvement and family engagement. All students can learn just need the right supports. Always presume positive intent.

Lucinda Kelley:

I love the definition of cultural humility! I think it is very related to equity as well - but it is how we as individuals see ourselves in the bigger picture of humanity. So many times I see educators who see themselves as better, smarter, more capable - it is difficult to build relationships when that is the prevailing attitude.

Tina Minehan:

Powerful!

Selina Merrell:

Highlights the need to focus on the social emotional development of the adults.

GA Karen Suddeth:

I would ask Allison to teach me so that I could ensure my school is more aware and inclusive.

Hollie Filce:

When she said her son has to advocate for himself when he's so young and shouldn't have to do that at his age....so true.

Bernadette.Gomez:

I as a bilingual/bicultural person learned about the daily "traveling" of cultural identity adaptation, when no support was ever provided by public schools. In the end, it is a gift that grows the synapses of the brain, and actually increase and strengthen IQ!

Bernadette.Gomez:

Role modeling, fostering and using multicultural curriculum!

Bernadette.Gomez:

Just a friendly suggestion to maybe consider changing the label of American Indian, to Native American and American Indian that would represent Eastern Indian heritage?

Peg S:

I think Florida would have many similar findings.

Young, Annette:

1. no; yes 2. the first thing I would do would be to work on relationships--repairing, making, giving value to all voices framing this work both internally with staff and externally with community and the families served

Amanda Dionne:

Thank you Bernadette Gomez. This is a continuous conversation in our District. After much discussion with American Indian staff, families and students we have decided to utilize American Indian. I'm sure we will be revisiting the conversation again.

Bernadette.Gomez:

Provide stipends for bilingual work!

Jennifer Coffey:

<https://promotingprogress.org/>

Jennifer Coffey:

The PROGRESS Center provides information, resources, and support for local educators and leaders responsible for the development and implementation of high-quality educational programming for students with disabilities that ensures access to free appropriate public education (FAPE) and progress toward appropriately ambitious goals...

Tom Delaney MDE:

Looks like a solid human-centered design process. Good to see! :)

Maren Henderson (she/her):

Links will be available in the post from Len

Maren Henderson (she/her):

Final reflection question: What engagement have you done over the pandemic? What learnings will you bring into your future work?

Maren Henderson (she/her):

<https://sites.google.com/mpls.k12.mn.us/mpsppe/home>

Selina Merrell:

Thank you! Great information.

Peg S:

Thank you very interesting approach.

Sheila Lovato:

Thank you!

Young, Annette:

Excellent! Thank you both so much!

Kristen Brown/CO Director Office of Learning Supports:

Thank you!

Amanda Working:
Thank you!

Tom Delaney MDE:
Thank you, chi miigwech!

Theresa Farmer:
Thank you for the helpful information and ideas. Your work inspires us all.

Maren Henderson (she/her):
Thanks for having us! Let us know if we can help via individual conversations, etc.

Tracey Sridharan:
Thank you!

Laura Bray:
Thank you so much, Amanda and Maren!

Tom Delaney MDE:
Anpetu was'te, South Dakota! (a little Lakota from Mni Sota Makoc'e)

Amy Lance:
Read to Succeed Family Literacy Training: <http://bit.ly/ReadtoSucceedSD>

Amy Lance:
Manual of Evaluation Tools: <https://doe.sd.gov/grants/documents/SPDG-Manual.pdf>

Tom Delaney MDE:
It's a great manual! The family engagement evaluation tools are something we are looking at for Minnesota. Thank you for making it a shared resource, much appreciated and nice work on the part of the SD team!

Vicki Griffo:
Thank you! Great presentations. Very informative and well-aligned with something we are focused on right now. Appreciate the resources!

Kristen Brown/CO Director Office of Learning Supports:
Thank you!

Theresa Farmer:
Wow! The data from your Family Engagement survey was wonderful! Thanks for sharing the questions and results.

Theresa Farmer:
We will borrow many of your ideas.