Family Engagement: Supporting Schools and Collecting Data

South Dakota SPDG
May 6, 2021

Introductions

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Objectives

- Overview - SD SPDG Family Engagement
- Measuring family engagement.
- Measuring skill-building and learning as a result of family training/coaching.

South Dakota SPDG

Family Engagement Goal:

Implement a consistent and sustainable process for schools to engage families in meaningful literacy practices.

–Build parent understanding of foundational literacy.

–Develop a family-friendly school culture.

–Engage families beyond activity nights.

Read to Succeed
Family Literacy Training

- Module 1: Phonemic Awareness and Phonics
- Module 2: Online - Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Follow-Up
- Module 3: Fluency, Vocabulary, & Comprehension
- Module 4: Online - Fluency, Vocabulary, & Comprehension Follow-Up

bit.ly/ReadtoSucceedSD

Read to Succeed
The Move to Virtual Training

- Modules available through Nearpod.
  - Asynchronous
  - Pause and Return

- Lunch & Learn - Modules delivered in smaller units across more time.

bit.ly/ReadtoSucceedSD

Weekly Family Literacy Tips

Greetings from SD Parent Connection!

Here is the **Parent Education Series "Literacy Newsletter Blip,"** for you to add to **school newsletters, websites, social media**, or share with staff for them to include in **classroom newsletters** or **other family communication**.

Reading Focus: **Phonics |** Grade: K/1, 2/3

What a **GREAT** activity from: verywellfamily.com

Teach Phonics Through Picture-Taking

Tap into their creative mind when you hand them a camera and send them on **a phonics adventure**. Help them spot objects that navigate them from A to Z through photos. They can snap pictures of everything from an anthill to a Zamboni.

The lesson continues at home when your child **makes their own alphabet book** with their pictures. The activity never gets old and can be used to capture a field trip, vacation or regular day with mom or dad through their eyes.

For more ideas, blogs and videos for parents and reading go to:

www.sdsfec.org/literacy-tips-for-families

Family Engagement - Poll Question

Do you remember this song from 1996: Macarena

- Yes
- No
- I’m too young to remember what happened in 1996

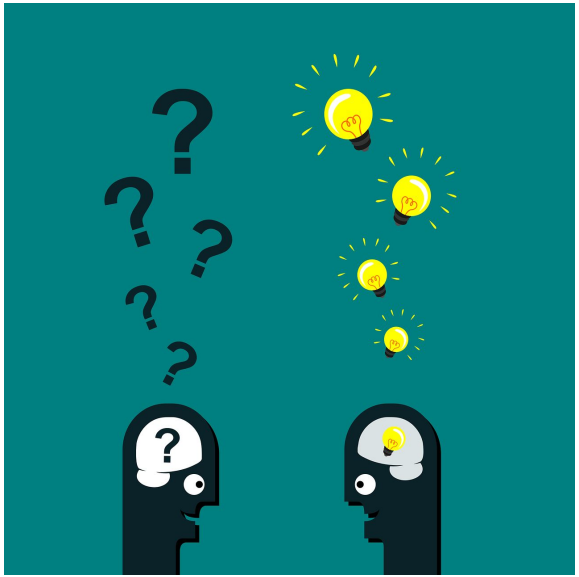
Family Engagement

Macarena

- By Los del Rio
- #1 hit song in 1996
- Inspired an international dance craze

Family Engagement

If it’s not dancing, what is it?



Family Engagement: In the Beginning

Prior to the SD SPDG:

- SDDOE Special Education, via the SSIP, had an action strand on family engagement.
- SDDOE Title I, via ESSA, had a focus on family engagement

Together, they defined family engagement.

Team work!

Family Engagement: Definition

- Having a welcoming physical environment
- Developing a family-friendly culture
- Hosting activity nights at schools for families
- Promoting two-way communication between school and families
- Valuing family members as partners in the education of their children
- Effectively using technology and printed materials for communications with families
- **Providing opportunities for parents to gain skills and access resources surrounding learning at home**

Family Engagement: Measurement Overview

Family Engagement Measurements

Outcomes

1. Are families engaged?
2. Have family members learned new literacy-related skills?

Family Engagement: Outcome Measures

Measures for School Staff

1. Family Engagement Survey (for Educators)
2. Family Friendly Walk-Through
3. Tips Survey
4. Focus Groups
5. Interviews

Family Engagement: Outcome Measures

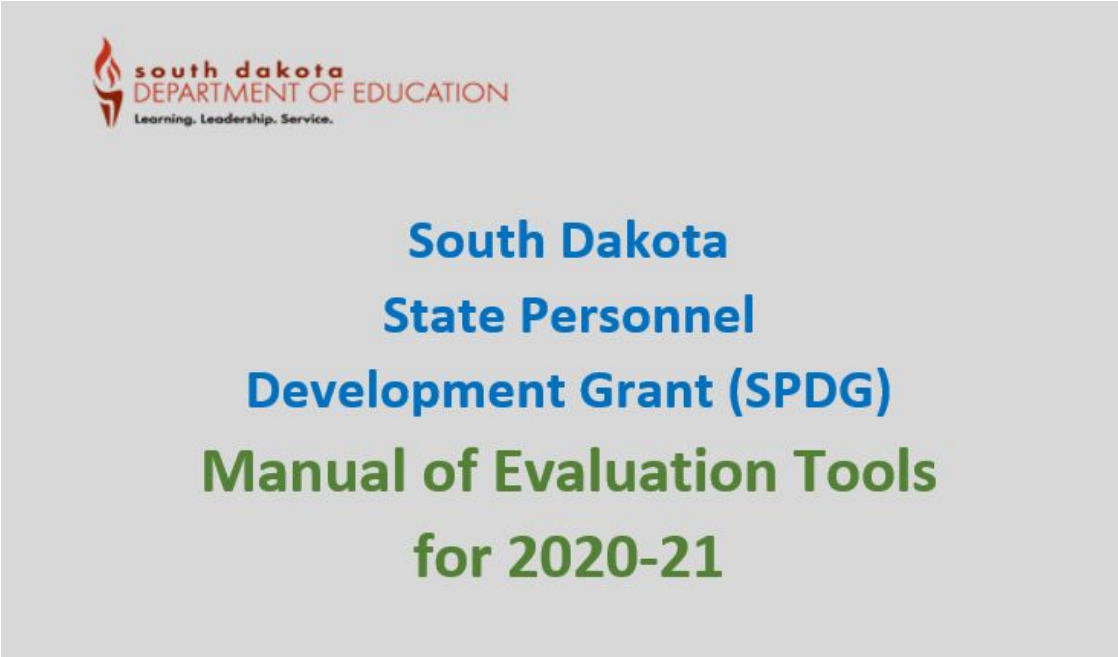
Measures for Families

1. Family Engagement Survey (for Families)
2. Pre-/Post-Survey for Family Literacy Trainings
3. Family Literacy Blip Survey

Family Engagement Measurements

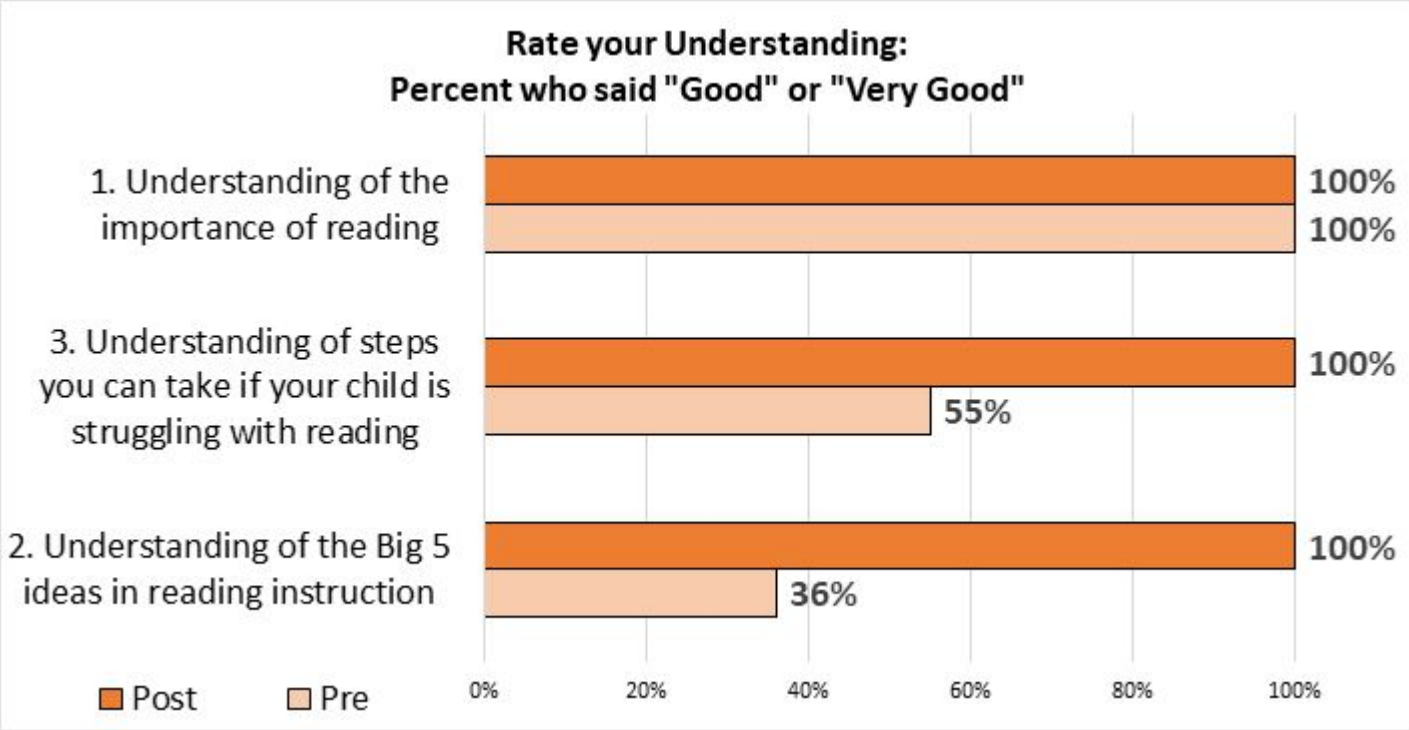
Description and copy of all measurement tools:

https://doe.sd.gov/grants/documents/SPDG-Manual.pdf



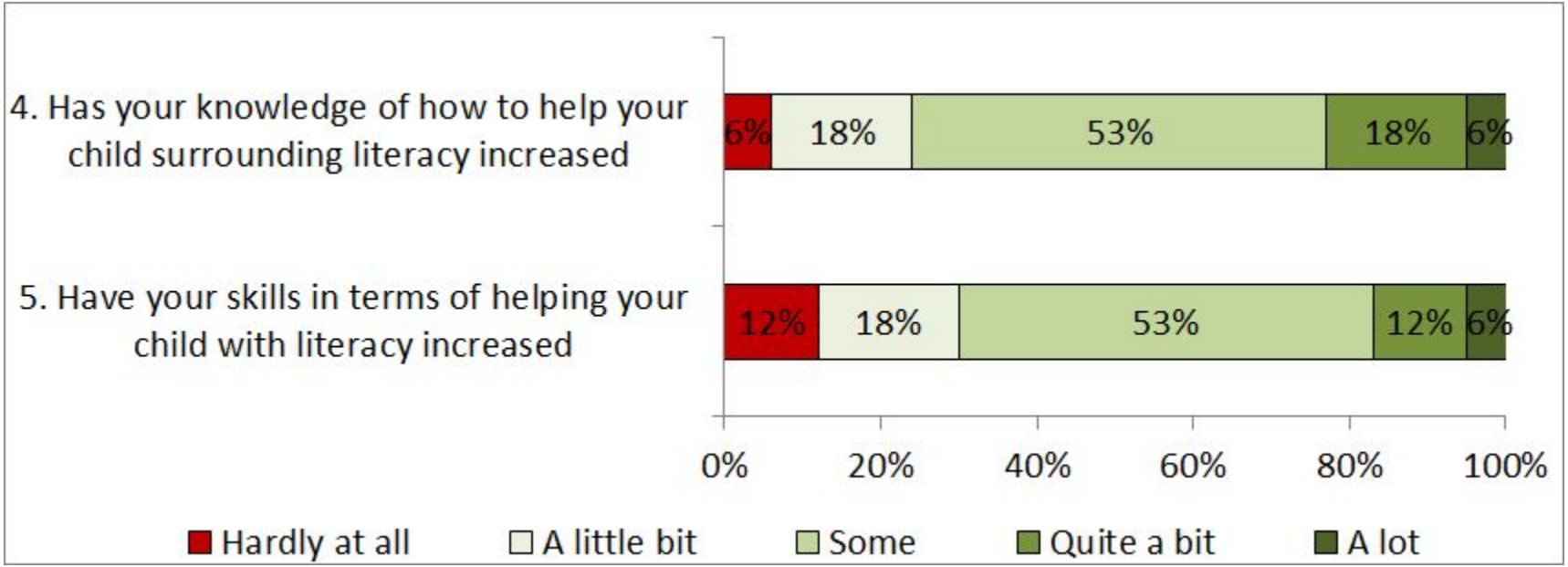
Measuring Skill-Building

Pre-/Post-Survey for Family Literacy Trainings



Measuring Skill-Building & Engagement

Family Literacy Blip Survey



Measuring Skill-Building & Engagement

Family Engagement Survey (for Families)

Family Engagement Survey

Administered every fall

Over 1,100 parent respondents

Includes demographic questions about disability status, EL status, grade level

Family Engagement Survey

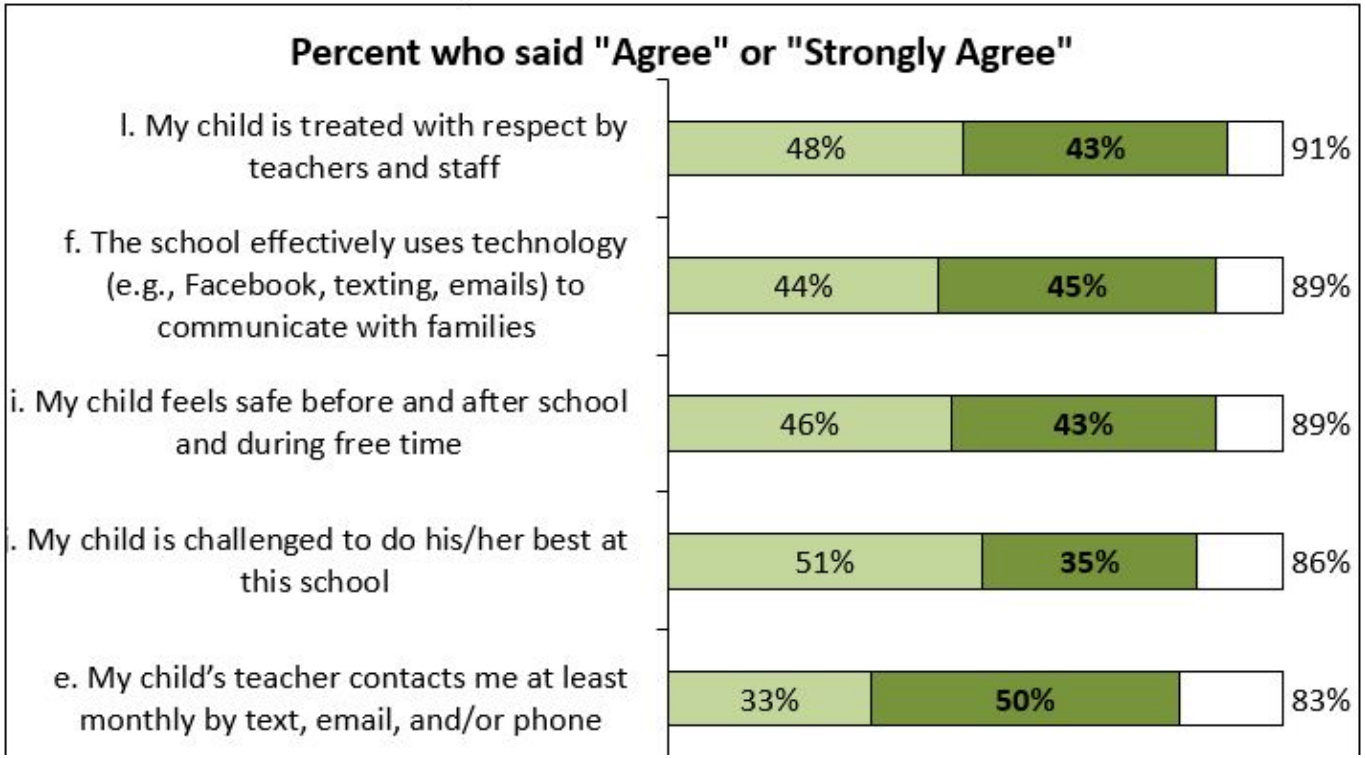
1. Please indicate your level of agreement on the following.
a. I feel welcome at my child's school
b. I am encouraged to participate in my child's classroom learning
c. My family's culture, ethnicity, and beliefs are respected and valued at this school
d. The principal is available to families
e. My child's teacher contacts me at least monthly by text, email, and/or phone
f. The school effectively uses technology (e.g., Facebook, texting, emails) to communicate with families
g. I know how to use the school's online resources such as the website(s), email, and student information system.
h. The school offers programs to families that will help promote learning in the home.
i. My child feels safe before and after school and during free time
j. My child is challenged to do his/her best at this school
k. My child is treated with respect by other students
l. My child is treated with respect by teachers and staff

Consists of "engagement" questions and "skill-building" questions

2. Please rate the usefulness of the following types of information you receive from the school/your child's teacher:
a. How to assist my child with learning at home
b. Academic grade level goals in reading
c. Academic grade level goals in math
d. How to help my child successfully complete reading schoolwork
e. How to help my child successfully complete math schoolwork

Family Engagement Survey

The results are generally positive.



Family Engagement Survey

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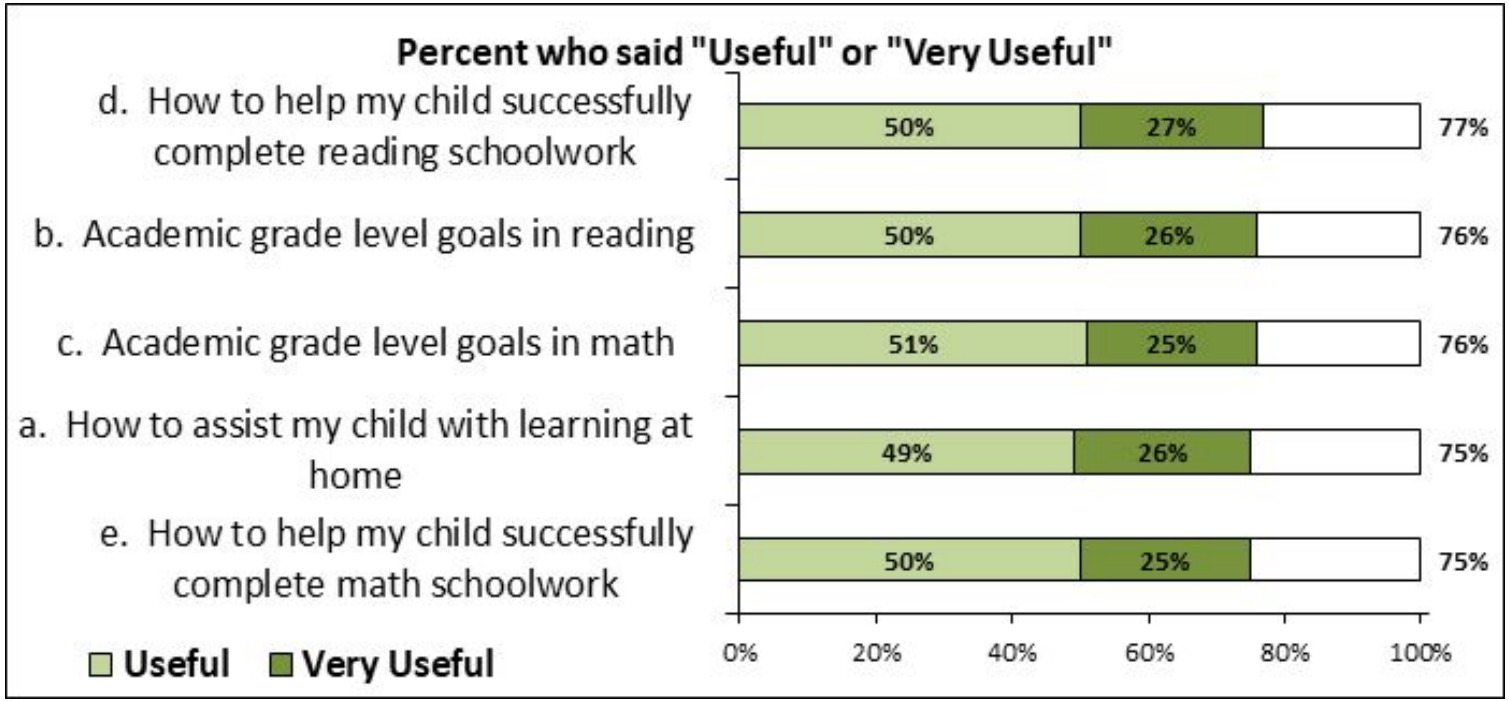
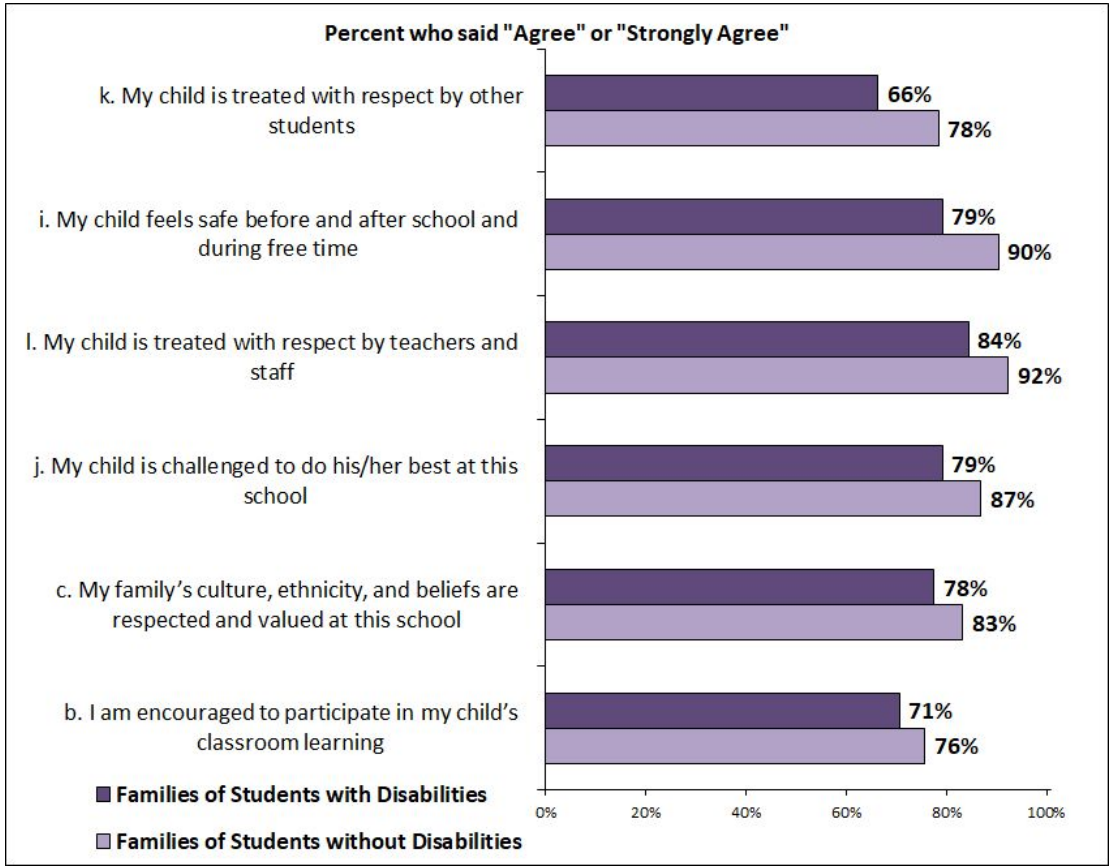


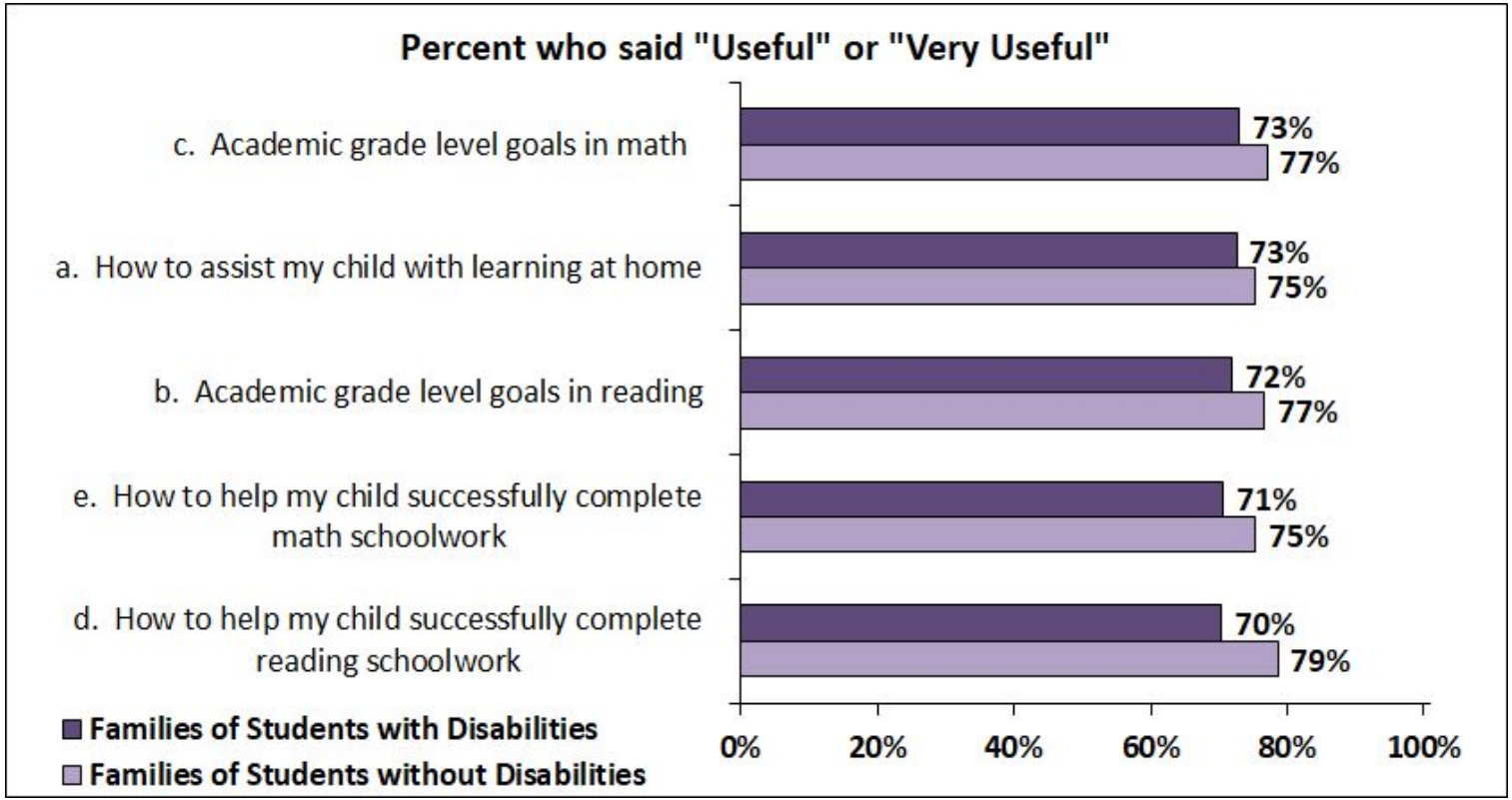
Family Engagement Survey

The results point to areas of work surrounding students with disabilities.

However, the gap between SWD and SWOD decreased from fall 2019 to fall 2020!



Family Engagement Survey



Family Engagement Survey

Two survey items have been found to be strongly related to positivity on other survey items.

This suggests that these are activities that schools can do to increase family engagement.

3. Have you received information on your child's progress in foundational (early) reading skills?

1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't Know

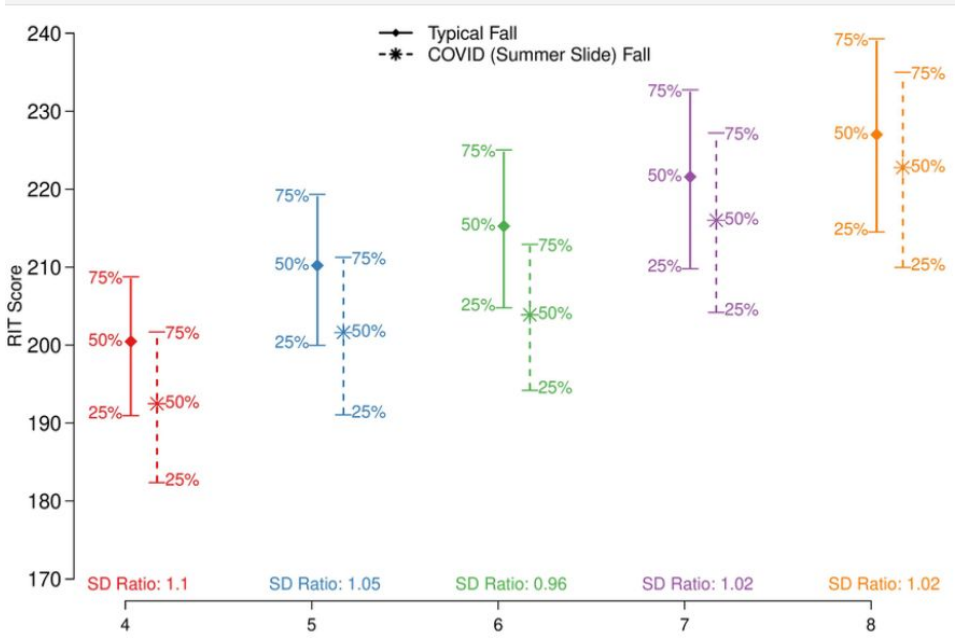
- **Parents who received progress info are more positive than parents who did not.**

4. Have you received training on how you can support your child's reading skills at home?

1 Yes 2 No 3 Don't Know

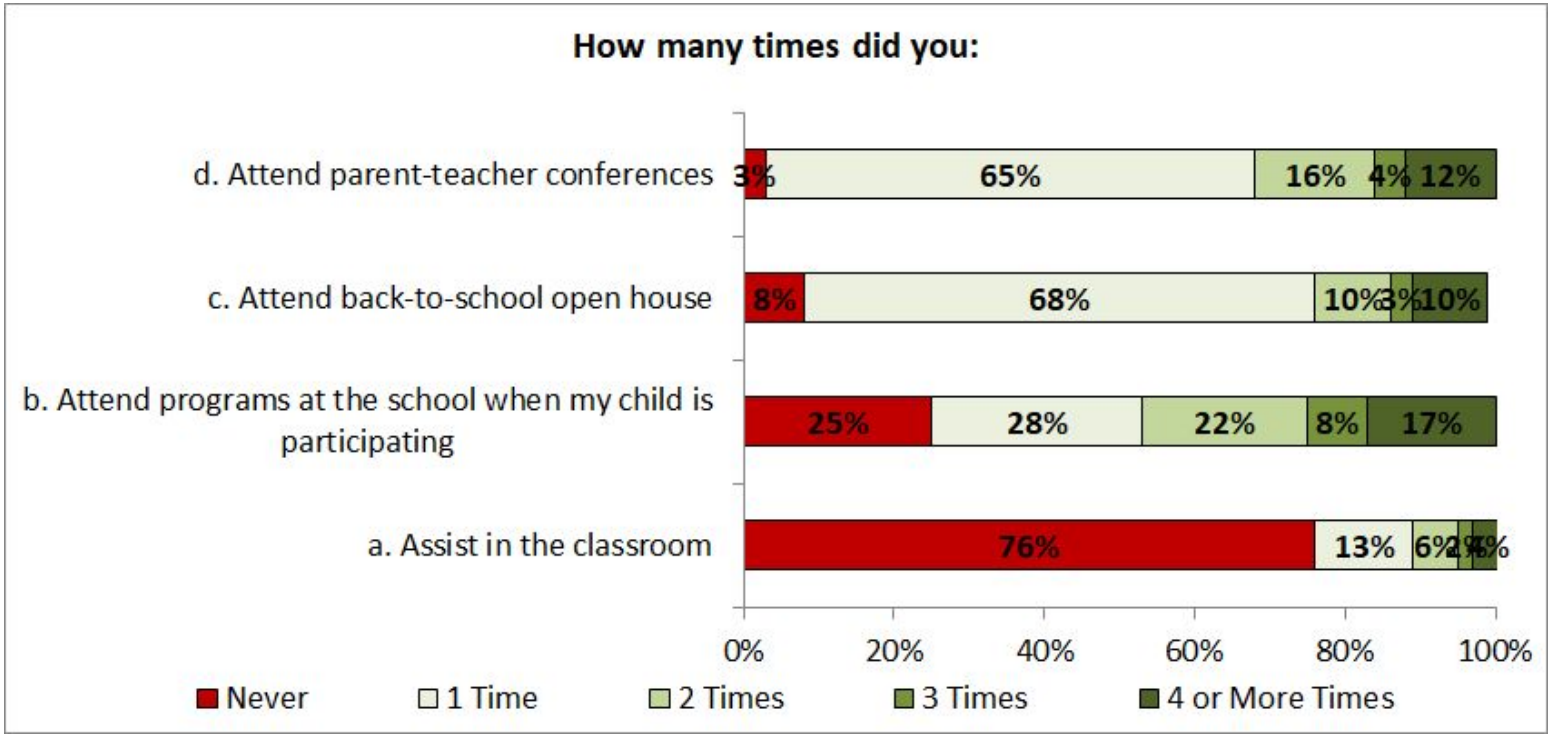
- **Parent who received training on how to support child's reading skills are more positive than parents who did not.**

Family Engagement Slide?



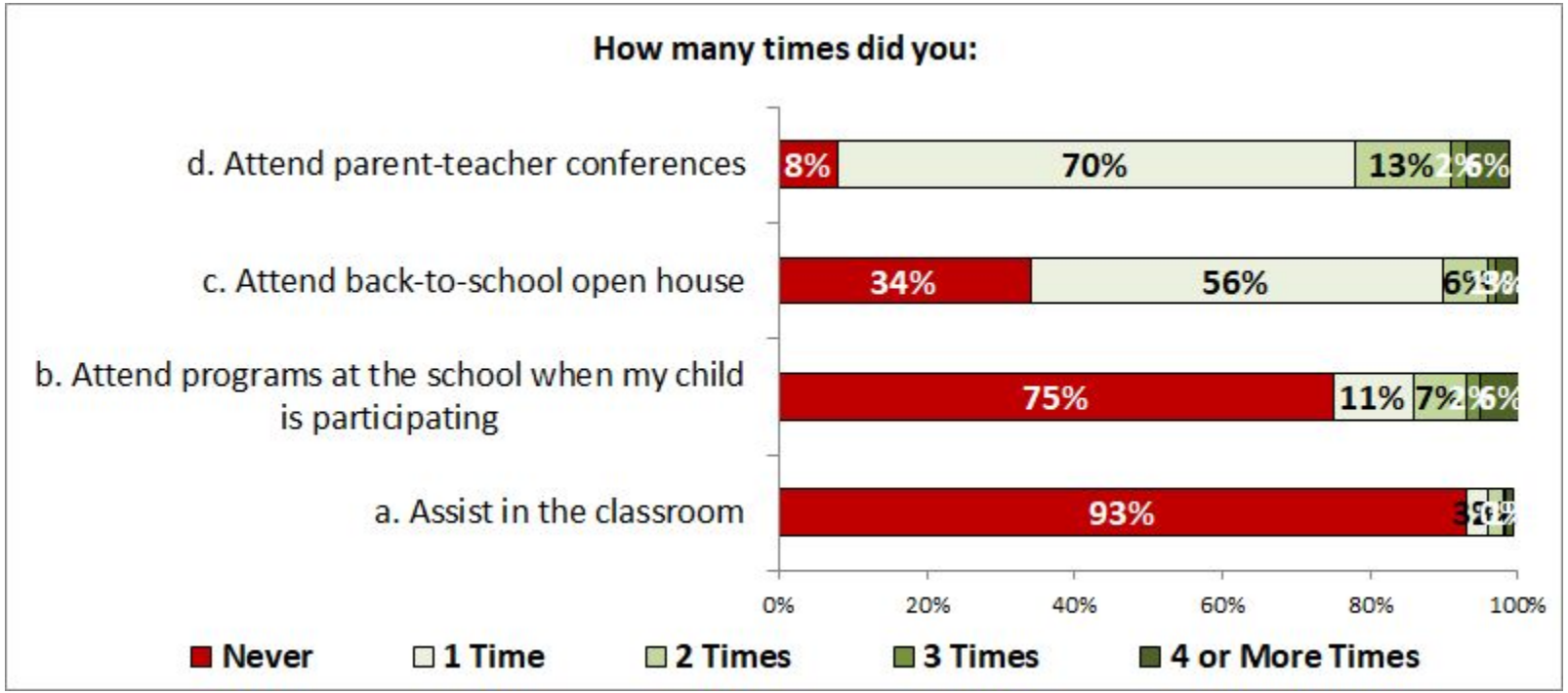
Family Engagement Slide?

Fall 2019 Results



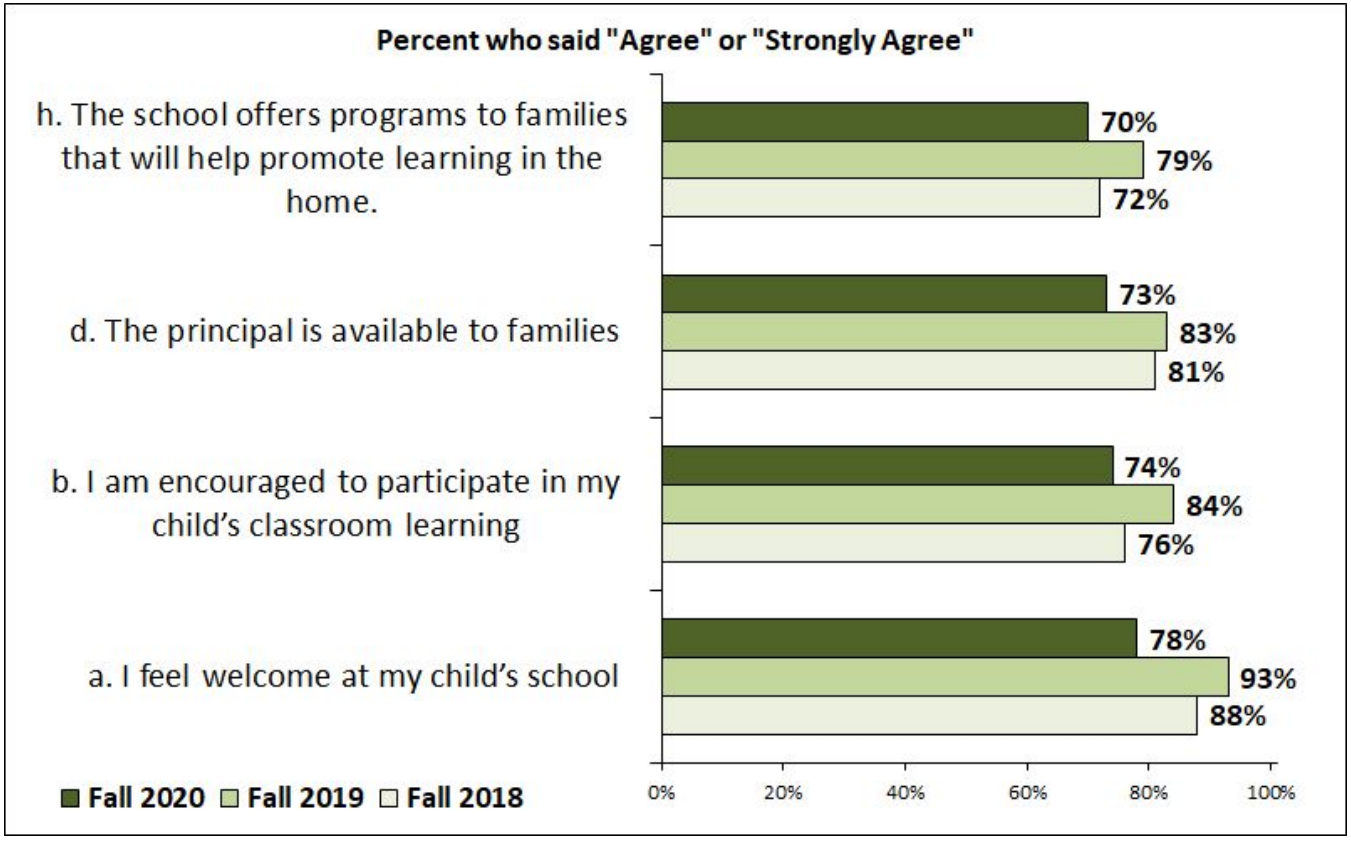
Family Engagement Slide?

Fall 2020 Results



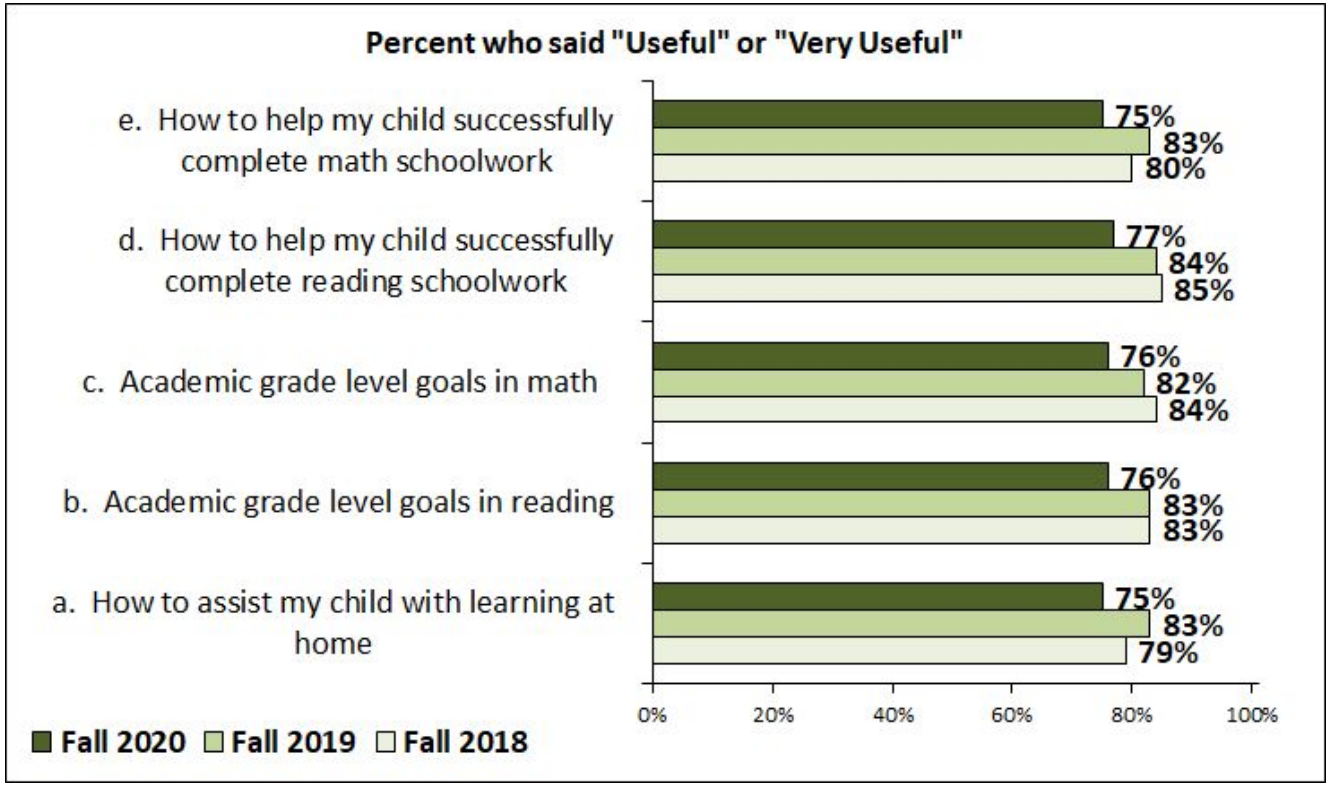
Family Engagement Slide?

Ratings increased from fall 2018 to fall 2019 and then decreased in fall 2020.



Family Engagement Slide?

Ratings generally increased from fall 2018 to fall 2019 and then decreased in fall 2020.



Family Engagement - Poll Question

Have you noticed a decrease in your family engagement measures this year?

- Yes
- No
- Haven’t looked yet

Family Engagement

Two open-ended items

For both these items about 21% of respondents mentioned COVID.

5. What has the school done to make you feel welcome?

- “I understand COVID has brought new challenges to this year but there is no “community” in the school with not allowing families in or meeting the teachers.”
- “This question is not really applicable for the 20/21 school year due to COVID 19.”
- “They are always super friendly, and though COVID has impacted this year for events, this school has events that are fun for the whole family.”

6. What could the school do to make you feel welcome?

- “Due to COVID, maybe more e-mail or class dojo communication.”
- “There isn’t much more that the school can do until COVID-19 protocols are relaxed.”
- “With COVID find alternative ways for our children to have events using social media or technology.”

Action Plans

How do schools use the data?

- For each family engagement measure, we generate an overall report, district-level reports, and school-level reports.
- The SD SPDG Action Plan template has categories for each of the SPDG buckets.
- Schools are encouraged to examine their data and set goals surrounding family engagement.

THANK YOU