

WHAT:



Family Engagement:

the process of educators actively building relationships of trust to partner WITH families to improve outcomes for all students.

Family Empowerment:

consistent, ongoing and authentic efforts to support family members to be equal partners in their children's education.



Community Engagement:

the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the wellbeing of those people.



WHY: Family Engagement Matters - Research confirms - When schools partner in a meaningful way with families, outcomes for students improve!

HOW: Six components of trauma sensitive family engagement in VTSS



Positive Relationships: The strengths of all families, including those impacted by trauma, are recognized, valued and honored by school staff. Staff and families recognize families' needs and cultural experiences to lead to greater understanding and respect among all.



Family Empowerment: Families are valued, encouraged and supported to be equal partners in their children's education. Efforts to empower families impacted by trauma are ongoing, consistent and authentic. Families are offered relevant and trauma sensitive resources (ex., training, stipends, technology access) to build skills to serve as leaders, advocates, supporters and partners with staff in student learning.



Leadership: Leaders demonstrate ongoing commitment to family engagement overall and to creating and fostering a trauma-responsive school environment. Understands and dedicates resources to students, families and staff to offer trauma-sensitive approaches at all three tiers.



Data-based Goals and Outcomes: Goals related to family and community engagement reflect the culture and experience of those in the community. Goals might include family and child/youth resiliency, staff readiness to use trauma sensitive strategies, staff self-care. Evaluation of outcomes is conducted in a way that does not risk retraumatization.



Multi-tiered/Multi-dimensional Approach: Families understand tier distinctions and implications for their children. Approaches for dialoguing with families are varied, accommodating common triggers and challenges. Responses and interventions at families at tier 2 and 3 account for possible stressors.



Collaborative Problem Solving: For students receiving tier 2 & 3 supports, family input is obtained and utilized in a way that minimizes risk of triggers. Family participation is encouraged and made accessible in the problem solving process. Linkages to clinical and other community services with trauma expertise are made when appropriate.