Family Engagement Impact
DC Scholars Stanton
January 23rd
Who We Are: Flamboyan Foundation is a private, family foundation focused on improving educational outcomes for children in Pre-K-12 public schools in Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

D.C. Focus Area: Family Engagement
What we heard from families...

“They actually do think that we do not know anything. That we are really just here to send our kids off to school. They really think that we don’t care about our kids.”

“I think [it would help] if we could better understand as parents how to do some of the work and how to teach because ... sometimes the teachers teach one way but I was taught another way.”

“My [granddaughter’s mother] constantly called the teachers and left messages and they never return her calls.”

“I feel insecure and confused [about my relationship with my child’s teacher]. My son feels ignored because ... the teacher pays more attention to the other students. The teacher tells me a different story than the one my son tells me.”
Family Engagement Supports School Improvement

- 5 key factors predicted school improvement
- Weakness over time in any one area lowered a school’s chance of improving to roughly 10%

Family Engagement Defined

• Ensures families have the school partner and information they need to bolster student success
• Is founded on a trusting relationship between families and educators
• Creates a balance of power in the relationship between educators and families
• Requires educators to examine their assumptions about families
• Pays attention to how issues of systemic inequity affect student success
Whole School Approach
Five Roles that Accelerate Learning

- Communicate high expectations
- Advocate for their child
- Monitor their child’s performance
- Guide their child’s education
- Support learning at home
Family Engagement Grounded in Trust
Family Engagement Linked to Student Outcomes

12 D.C. public elementary schools
4,000 students

It found that students whose families received a home visit, one of the core strategies in the Family Engagement Partnership,

had 24% fewer absences

and were more likely to read at or above grade level, compared to similar students who did not receive a home visit.
Proof Point:

DC Scholars Stanton Elementary School
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DC Scholars Stanton Elementary School

Change in # Absences v. Attendance at APTT

- Increase in absences
- No change
- 1-9 drop
- 10-14 drop
- 15+ drop in absences

Change in # Absences v. Receipt of Home Visit

- Increase in absences
- No change
- 1-9 drop
- 10-14 drop
- 15+ drop in absences

Did not attend
Attended 1-2 APTT
Attended 3-4 APTT

No Home Visit
Home Visit
Multipronged Approach

For the first time in Stanton’s history, we met our attendance goal of 93% ISA. We attribute the success of our attendance and truancy prevention efforts to family engagement and the other strategies below:

- Having teachers be responsible for “case management” of their students who were chronically truant in the 2014-15 school year
- Assigning Attendance Team members to 1-2 grade bands each for case management
- Added case management assistance from new mental health partners
- Increase in attendance incentives and added interactive display of attendance data throughout the school year
- Dramatic reduction in suspensions (90% reduction); suspensions have historically led to parents keeping their students out of school longer depending on the length of the suspension
Family Engagement Grounded in Trust
The strongest, most consistent predictor of family engagement are the specific school and teacher practices that encourage and guide a family’s engagement.
Hypothesis of Impact

Good

- Parent help on administrative tasks
- Celebrations
- Parent resource rooms
- Potlucks
- Performances and showcases
- Generic school newsletters

Better

- Goal-setting talks
- Back to school night
- Academic partnering
- Weekly data-sharing folders
- Regular, personalized communication
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Home visits
- Home learning activities
- Interactive homework
- Positive phone calls home

High impact family engagement:
- Supports families to play impactful roles
- Is individualized for families and students
- Is teacher-driven
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