

Family Engagement in the Gloucester Public Schools – Title I

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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
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What We'll Cover

- ★ Purpose and Goals Behind Family Engagement
- ★ Engaging Families 15-16 School Year
- ★ Plans for the 16-17 School Year
- ★ What we found works and what doesn't work
- ★ Beyond just “events”
- ★ Future Goals



Why the change?

- ★ Family Engagement historically has not been directly linked to Title I outreach
 - ★ Problematic because focusing on supplemental reading and math initiatives could have greater impact with follow up at home
 - ★ Parents were confusing Title I with Special Education and not fully understanding the benefit of Title I



Our Focus

- ★ Our goal in getting parents involved is focused on the following 3 areas
 - ★ 1) Increase parent understanding of what Title I is and who we support
 - ★ 2) Provide parents information about how to foster literacy in their homes
 - ★ 3) Give parents access to books to read at home



Where to Start

★ 2015-2016 School Year

- ★ Title I goal was to get parents involved and coming in for Title I sponsored events!

- ★ Goal was one event in the fall and spring at each Title I school and one district-wide event

★ 2016-2017 School Year

- ★ Title I goal is to increase the home/school connection in literacy by providing families with access to literature and activities they can work on at home

- ★ Continue with the same number of events
 - ★ Build in ways to increase literacy at home



2015-2016 School Year

- ★ Empowering Writers Family Presentation (District Wide Event)
- ★ Spooky Story Night
- ★ Cookies and Cocoa (2 schools)
- ★ Living Blue Event
- ★ Caps for Sale
- ★ Open Door Pantry Book Event



2016-2017 Plans

★ Move beyond events

- ★ Handbook including events and more opportunities for parents to get involved
- ★ Focus more on what Title I is an using it for a resource

★ Continue with school events

- ★ Whenever possible provide literature and home connection or strategies

★ District wide read aloud

- ★ Follow up with a reading group – model how parents can talk with their kids about books



What Works

- ★ Attach to something already going on
 - ★ Increased visibility first, then allowed us to make connections
- ★ Meet Parents where they are
 - ★ Hold events at different times
 - ★ If they can't make it still include them (i.e. Brave Irene books)
- ★ The more tangible the better!
 - ★ Handbooks came from this idea
- ★ Have fun and think outside the box!



What doesn't work?

- ★ Information only
- ★ Providing information without resources
 - ★ i.e. providing information on how to read together with kids but not providing a book doesn't give them a chance to try it
- ★ Overestimating
 - ★ Start small – then increase incrementally
 - ★ Expecting whole school involvement – smaller events helped to create buy-in both from staff and families



Beyond “Events”

- ★ Meaningful “things in hands”
- ★ Handbooks
- ★ Looking at surveys
- ★ Spreading the word



Future Goals

- ★ Advisory Council
- ★ Connections with Local Library
- ★ Book drive/Book exchange
- ★ Moving beyond Title I schools within the district



Questions?

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