

## WHAT IS THE FAST INSTITUTE OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT?

The FAST Institute of Family Engagement trains school staff to partner with families in support of children's education and well-being. By blending best practices in teacher training and family and community engagement into interactive, whole-school workshops and ongoing coaching, the FAST Institute helps schools to create a more welcoming environment for families of all racial, cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. When schools and families are collaborating as partners, families feel empowered to advocate for their children and academic achievement among children increases. The FAST Institute builds on 30 years of the evidence-based family engagement program, FAST.

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Research has shown that partnerships between schools, families, and communities are a key strategy to improving student achievement, reducing disciplinary incidences, and increasing school safety. Teachers also gain more positive views of their students' families and feel more supported in their work with students when schools improve relationships with families.

## WHAT WILL THE FAST INSTITUTE OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DO?



Support schools to identify and address barriers to Family Engagement (e.g. transportation, child care, family availability)



Facilitate a mindset shift within schools to fully embrace the importance of Family Engagement



Guide school teams to engage families in culturally diverse settings, bridge racial, class, and cultural differences, and reduce disparities among socially excluded groups



Help schools develop strong Family Engagement teams and Parent Leadership Teams, by increasing family empowerment

## **WHOLE-SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING**

- Professional development for whole school (including administrators, teachers, family engagement staff, parents, secretaries, custodians, etc.)
- Number of sessions and schedule flexible depending on school needs and availability
- Focus on family and community engagement
- Interactive, hands-on, and experiential
- PD will be provided by FAST Trainers and a FAST Coach
- Continued support through online community of practice

## **2 COACHING**

- Between the PD sessions, the FAST Coach will follow up to ensure the school has the support to move forward
- Coaching will involve a mix of in-person and online/phone sessions
- Coach will be an experienced FAST Trainer

## **3 ASSESSMENT**

- We will administer a pre-assessment of school staff and families to gauge a school's readiness to take on this work and identify specific goals related to family and community engagement within school improvement plans.
- We will conduct at least one site visit before the training begins to understand the specific context of the school and to help customize the training to the school's needs
- We will provide a post-assessment to gauge a school's progress at the end