

2022 Annual Report

In 2022 the FAST Institute of Family Engagement provided training and coaching to help schools and districts make a mindset shift toward engaging and empowering families as partners. By blending best practices in teacher training, family engagement, and social-emotional learning into interactive workshops and ongoing coaching, the FAST Institute helps schools create a more welcoming environment for families of all racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.



FAST also received funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to pilot the FAST Institute in Milwaukee Public Schools, working with a cohort of staff from 16 schools. The Institute has three main components: professional development, individual coaching sessions for a team from each school, and a Family Engagement Readiness Assessment to identify areas of strength, areas for growth, and to track progress over time.

“Many of our families had [obstacles] in school where they weren’t always supported in a way to acknowledge who they are, to be able to express that in ways that are comfortable... FAST has eliminated those obstacles. They’ve created that partnership and that understanding, a sense of empathy and appreciation. Without it, I don’t know if we’d have it to the same level.”

Jason Dropik, Head of School, Indian Community School



Institute Results

According to an end-of-year survey, 100% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that due to their participation in the project: “My knowledge about family engagement strategies has increased”

“I feel more connected to parent coordinators at other schools”

“I feel more confident in my abilities to engage families at my school.”

“I have built my skills of creating a family friendly environment,”

“I have built my skills in using engaging communication strategies,” and

“I have built my skills in family advocacy and empowerment.”

Other findings from the end-of-year survey:

100% of participants found the professional development sessions to be “helpful” or “very helpful”.

88% of participants reported that coaching was “helpful” or “very helpful.”

“[The FAST Institute] has allowed me to connect the staff with their families to promote positivity in the classroom.”

“I feel this is something that should be implemented in all schools so schools have the opportunity to grow as a school. Staff need to be trained to understand parent involvement is a group effort!”

~Institute participants

2022-Early 2023 Highlights...

- **New FAST programs that are running** in sites: Sun Prairie School District, Wausau School District, Goodman Community Center, Wisconsin Rapids School District.

- **Convened Training of Trainers (T of T)** in 2022 & 2023. Trainers gathered from across the country Wisconsin, Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, Illinois, Ohio, Florida, Nebraska, and Arizona.

- **In March 2023 Dr. Nicole Lopez Purkapile** started in her new role as Executive Director. Dr. Lopez Purkapile brings with her a wealth of experience in the nonprofit sector, working with national and local organizations in early childhood, continuing education, and other fields.

Program Impact

3,155

people served at an average of 4.5 participants per family



average program rating by graduating parents

701

families graduated 2022 (attended at least 6 FAST sessions)

0-60+

age range of participants

Families served were from diverse backgrounds, including

71%

64% BIPOC 33% white

of families reported income <\$50,000 and 40% reported <\$25,000



77% of parents report increased access to community resources



69% of parents reported increased family satisfaction (cohesion, positive relationships, etc.)

58% of parents reported an increase in school-based activities



“We were skeptical, but we are now believers. [FAST] gave us an opportunity to connect very closely with families, and those families appreciated it. [...] Families felt supported, they felt empowered, they felt validated.”

Agnes Ring, Executive Director, Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley

Support

Families & Schools Together is grateful for the generous support we received from the funders below over the last year:

- WI Department of Children & Families
- United Way of Dane County
- Dane County DHS (American Rescue Plan)
- Pleasant Rowland Foundation
- TruStage Foundation
- Evjue Foundation
- Steve Stricker American Family Foundation
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Schlect Family Foundation



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