

Activity 3.1: Take a Closer Look

Time: 20 minutes

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to explore ways in which families in your educational organization engage in their children's academic lives.

Materials Needed

- "Closer Look" Chart

Roles

1. Facilitator: Explain the activity and lead the follow-up discussion
2. Participants: Work individually or in small groups to determine the degree of engagement of your families in academic activities

Activity

1. If working with a large group, divide into groups of 3-4.
2. Each participant should receive a copy of the "Closer Look" chart.
3. Allow 10 minutes for participants to discuss and record answers to the questions on the "Closer Look" chart.
4. Bring the group together to share and discuss their findings. Direct the group to determine one action step to increase family engagement in academic activities. Ask them to report out on progress towards their action step at your next meeting.

Possible facilitator questions:

1. Which avenue for information did you find was used the most in your school/district?
2. What did you notice about the scores?
3. What did you find were your areas of need?
4. How can this information be used to enhance communications with family members?

Talk a Closer Look Chart

Directions: Complete the “Take a Closer Look” chart regarding family engagement in academics. Then identify a lower scoring area and create an action step to enhance engagement and partnerships.

4	3	2	1
Almost Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never

Academic Statements	Score
1. My families reach out to me with questions regarding grading and curriculum.	
2. My families utilize the educational portal to monitor students’ grades.	
3. My families actively assist their children in completing homework assignment, as needed.	
4. My families understand their children’s standardized test scores.	
5. All families have access to necessary textbooks, either virtually or in paper copy.	
6. I seek to help my families understand homework assignments by providing them with resources and tutorials.	
7. I communicate information about the curriculum to my families on a regular basis.	
8. I provide regular updates about academic progress in a variety of modes of communication.	
9. I ensure that the majority of communications regarding academics are positive ones.	
10. I seek to help my families understand homework assignments by providing them with resources, tutorials, or explainer videos.	
11. I ensure that families understand the goals of the academic curriculum and why they are important.	
12. I offer a variety of ways for families to attend academic meetings (in person, digital, home visits...).	
13. Families are invited to participate in project-based learning activities.	
14. Family members are included on academic committees, such as curriculum council.	
15. School events are linked to learning and promote academic knowledge.	
16. Family members are recognized as collaborative partners who help establish academic goals for their children.	

Action Step for Improvement:
