

Relational Parent- Teacher Home Visits in Saskatchewan (3.0): Voices of some Parents

SSBA Fall General Assembly

November 15, 2022

Regina



The Opportunity

Provincial Education Plan Framework 2020-2030

- **Fostering connections and relationships between educators, students, and their families,**
- **Creating inclusive, safe, and welcoming school environments.**

The pillars of connections and relationships drive the goals through which students learn what they need for their future, feel safe and supported, belong, are valued, and can be themselves.

The Saskatchewan Context

- Saskatchewan has a long, rich history in community education philosophy and practice, dating at least back to 1980.
- Recent interest in the work of Dr. Debbie Pushor (U of S), and Kevin Cameron (North American Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response) is re-focusing Saskatchewan's educator sector on the vital importance of connections and relationships.
- Building connections through home visits is an evidence-based high-impact practice that is relatively easy to implement to respond to this challenge.

The Model

- The Parent Teacher Home Visit Project (www.pthvp.org) has been in existence in the U.S.A. since 1998.
- This initiative is in 700 schools across 28 States, and now in Saskatchewan.
- Two-visits model: The first visit is focused on relationships. The second visit is also relational, and can also focus on academics if appropriate.

Five Non-Negotiable Core Practices

1. Visits are always voluntary for educators and families, and arranged in advance.
2. Teachers are trained, and compensated for visits outside their school day.
3. Focus of the first visit is relationship-building; key focus is a discussion of hopes and dreams.
4. No targeting – visit all or a cross-section of students so there is no stigma.
5. Educators conduct visits in pairs, and after the visit, reflect with their partner.

A Saskatchewan Pilot

- The SSBA submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Education to initiate a project in 2021-2022, which was approved.
- The SSBA confirmed the participation of five school divisions in this project (Holy Trinity, Sun West, Northern Lights, Regina Public, and Ile-a-la-Crosse).
- A research study was implemented to be conducted alongside the pilot. Dr. James McNinch was secured to lead this research.
- An Advisory Committee was formed to guide the work.

Participation by division, schools, staff, families and number of visits

Five School Divisions	Number of Schools	Number of Participating Staff	Number of Participating Families	Number of Visits (1 st /2 nd)
North. Lights	1	2	3	3 (3/0)
Ile-a-la Crosse	1	2	20	40 (20/20)
Holy Trinity	2	14	32	55 (32/23)
Sun West	2	19	46	67 (46/21)
Regina Public	2	15	42	84 (42/42)
	8	52	143	249 (143/106)

Sun West's Journey with Parent Engagement



SUN WEST
SCHOOL DIVISION

Pam Sawatzky – Learning Consultant
Jessica Wall – Engagement Coach

Sun West's Journey with Parent Engagement



Sun West Engagement Circle

2016-2017

The aim of the Sun West Engagement Circle was to bring together stakeholders across Sun West to create a common understanding around parent engagement.



Sun West's Journey with Parent Engagement



SUN WEST
SCHOOL DIVISION

Promising Practices for Meaningful Family Engagement

-Carly Gilchrist, Amber Thompson, Pam Sawatzky
2018-2019



What the Parents Had to Say

- A. Who they are and why they volunteered
- B. Hopes and Dreams: what were the visits like?
- C. Degrees of Separation: “I come from a small town”
- D. Communication is Key to Building School Community Trust
- E. Parent Experiences of School have an impact
- F. Teacher Time and Technology (“where do PTHVs fit?”)
- G. Final Thoughts and Recommendations

A. Meet the Parents from Kindersley and Biggar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bl6iydoVmHU>



B. Hopes and Dreams: what were the visits like?

<https://youtu.be/Ox-H7gW5tBU>

hopes and dreams

Name: _____

School

Friends

When I grow up...

Earth



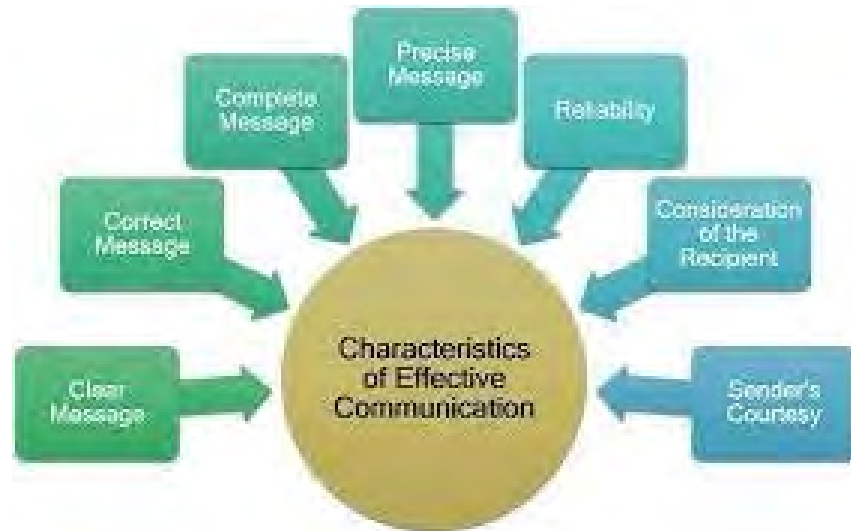
C. Degrees of Separation: “I come from a small town”

<https://youtu.be/6KCY20RnfHU>



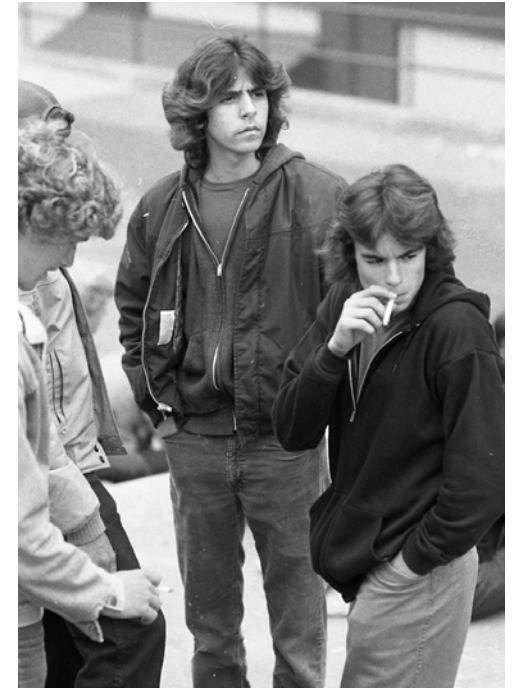
D. Communication is Key: Building Trust in the School Community

<https://youtu.be/m6zL2ocDH6o>



E. Parents' Experiences of Schooling play a role in engagement

<https://youtu.be/CNQVk68miQ8>



F. Teacher Time and Technology (“where and how do home visits fit?”)

<https://youtu.be/xph7O6SK3Fw>



G. Final Thoughts and Recommendations of Parents

<https://youtu.be/9lAsVyfzYWk>



Thank-you.

Thanks to Vicki Moore, Director of Education with SunWest School Division staff and Ted Amendt, SSBA Director of Board Development and Indigenous Education and SSBA staff making this happen.

Thanks to Mike Fedyk, Instructional Technologist with SunWest for video-taping the parents and editing it according to the themes we identified.

Thanks to Pam and Jess for being here today and for their commitment to parent engagement and for the parents in Biggar and Kindersley who took time to sit down to share their thoughts and experiences.

And finally, thanks to all the parents who volunteered to participate in this project in the six school divisions across the province. The full report is on the SSBA website.