



Parent Engagement

Past, Present, and Future

Past Thinking and Practices

Parent Involvement

Joyce Epstein

School, Family, And Community Partnerships



2025

Joyce Epstein

Contributions

- Overlapping spheres of influence
- Six types of involvement
 - *Parenting*
 - *Communicating*
 - *Volunteering*
 - *Learning at home*
 - *Decisionmaking*
 - *Collaborating*
- *National Network of Partnership Schools*
- *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*
 - *Section 1118 Parental Involvement*
 - *Programs of parent involvement*

2025

Joyce Epstein

Challenges

- A schoolcentricapproach ²⁰²⁵
- Reflective of the status quo
- *Not reflective of diverse or low-income families*
- *Not reflective of how parents are or want to be in relationship with the school*
- *Not focused on the core outcome of enhanced teaching and learning*

Present Thinking and Practices

Parent Engagement

A Shift to Parent Engagement

- A different conceptualization
- Funds of knowledge
- Linked to learning
- Parent knowledge
- Learning at home

Parent Engagement: Past, Present, and Future



Extending Parent/Family Engagement

- “survivance” (Vizenor, 2008)
- “familycentric” (Pushor, 2015)
- “educational equity and justice” (Ishimaru, 2020)
- “core competencies” (NAFSCE, 2022)

Parent Engagement: Past, Present, and Future

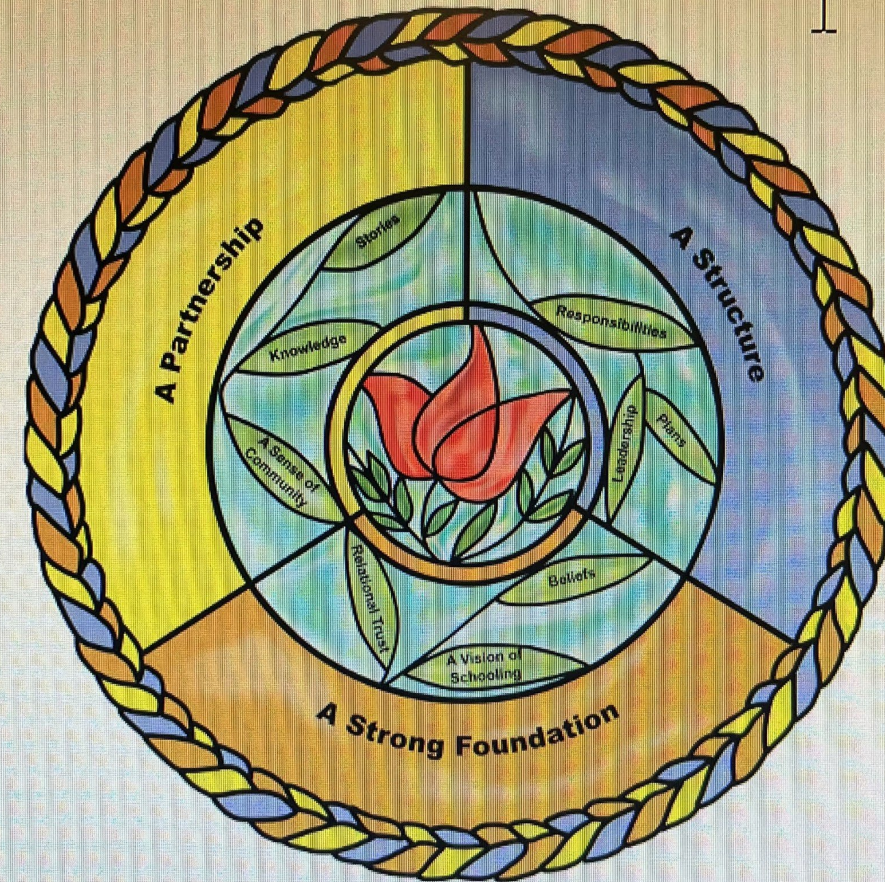


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Systematic Parent/Family Engagement

- Call to move “beyond random acts” of FE (Weiss, Lopez, & Rosenberg, 2010)
- Family engagement framework development (2014 onward)
- Sun West SD systematic approach (initiated in 2018)
- *The Share Framework: Family Engagement in Saskatchewan* (2025/26)
- Upcoming book, 2026

The Share Framework: Family Engagement in Saskatchewan



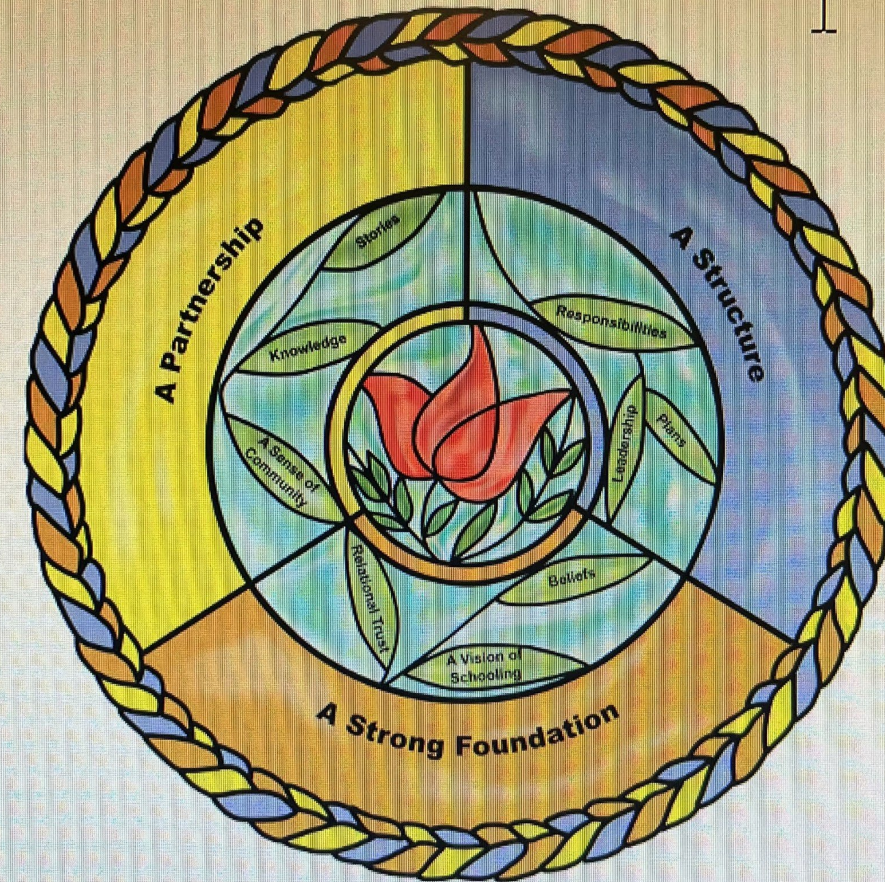
Future Thinking and Practices

**Systematic Parent/Family Engagement
Acting on What We Know**

Acting on What We Know

- Family engagement playbook
- Provincial PD, offered regionally
- Shareholder engagement

The Share Framework: Family Engagement in Saskatchewan



SSBA Possibilities

SCCs: Bringing the Vision to Life

Leadership for SCCs: Bringing the Vision to Life

A structure for community knowledge and governance

- Leadership
- Plans
- Responsibilities



Leadership for SCCs: Bringing the Vision to Life

- School community representation and cohesion
- Parent leadership training
- Connect learning to action



SSBA Leadership: SCC Representation

2025



Analysis of school community demographics



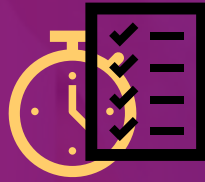
Placement of school community demographics on map of community



Reflection: Who is represented and from where?



Reflection: What are the implications of this representation?



Planning time: Strategies to attain inclusive representation



Creating cohesiveness: welcoming, hospitality, safety, purpose, fulfillment

SSBA Leadership: Parent Leadership Training

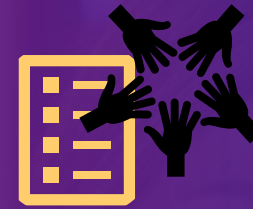
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Public speaking



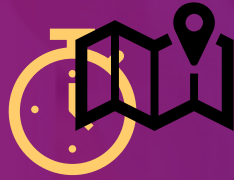
Group skills/people
management/ change
management



Facilitation skills and
strategies



Knowledge of planning
processes



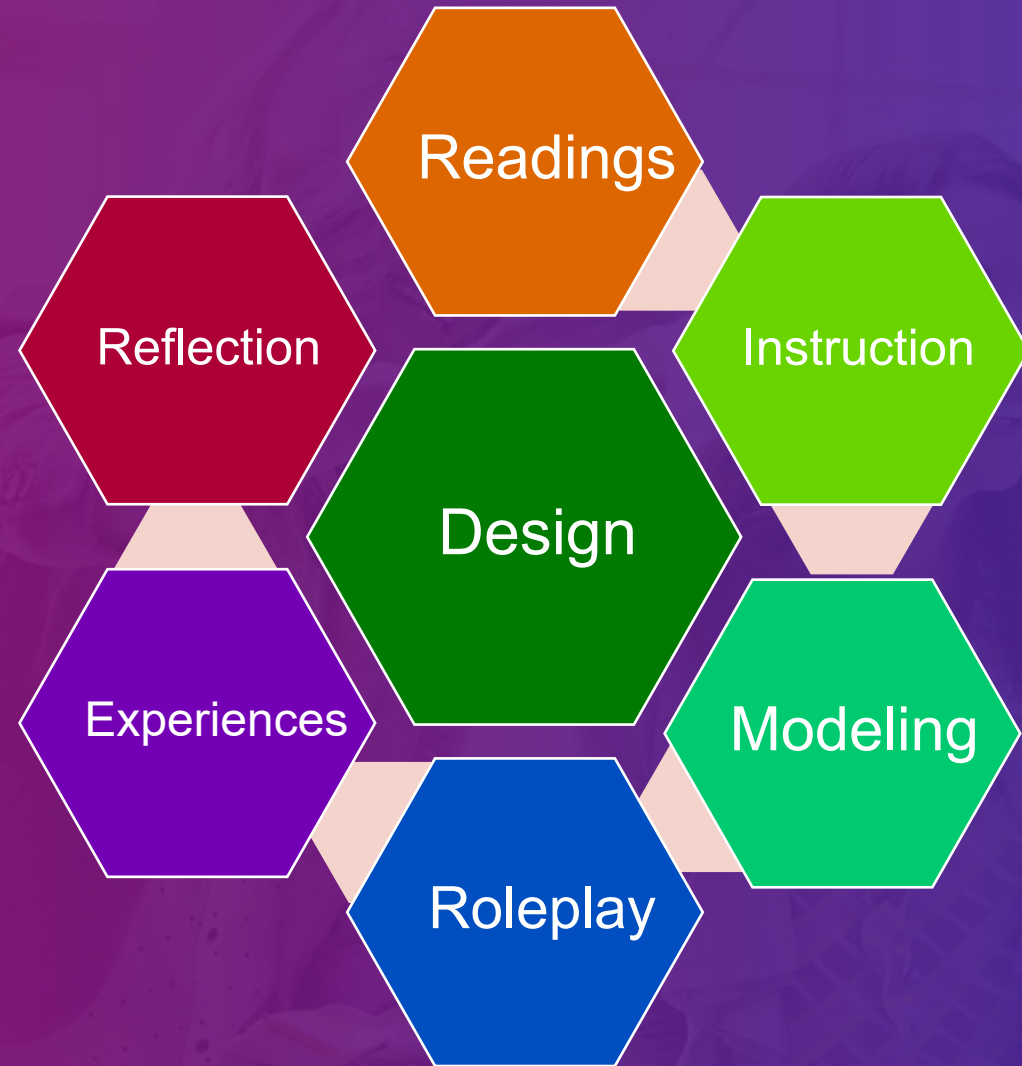
Knowledge of the sector
and the organization
(division, school)



Building partnerships
with community
organizations

Parent Leadership Training

Design



SSBA Leadership: Connect SCC Leadership to Action

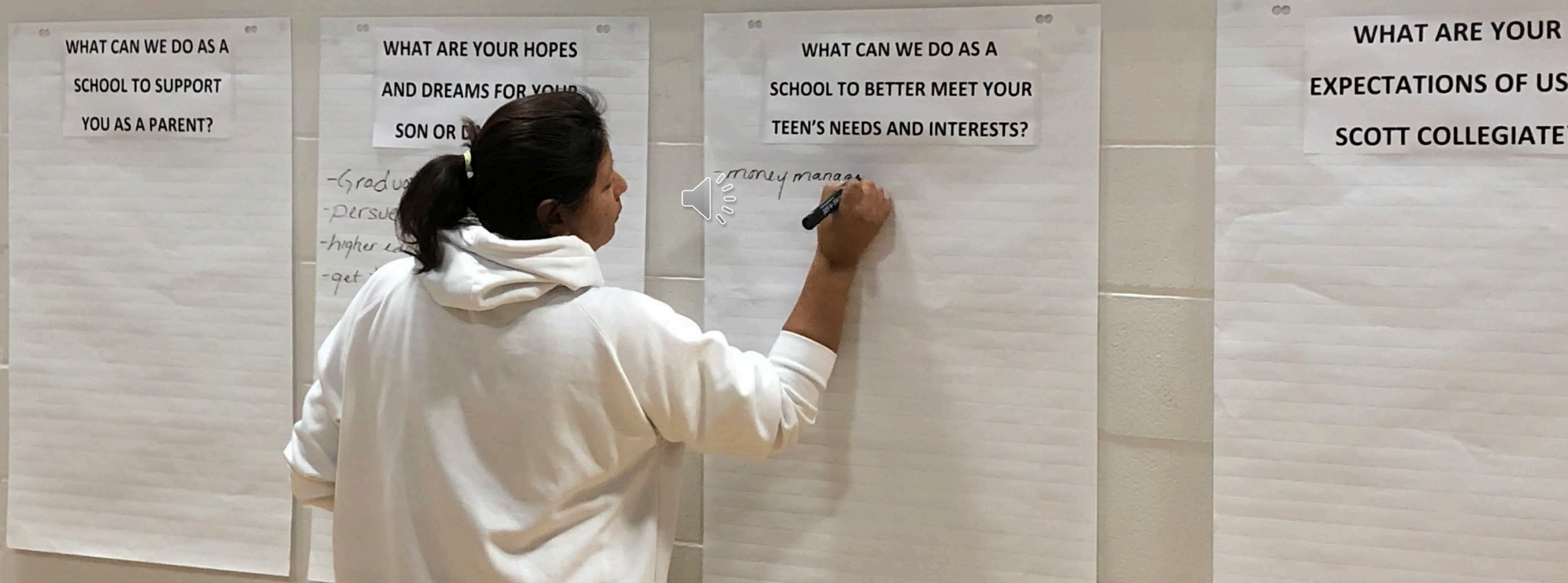
Develop shared responsibility for the learning success and well-being of all children and youth.

Encourage and facilitate parent and community engagement in school planning and improvement processes.

- Expectations are set in legislation.
- How are these expectations translated into SCC plans, processes, deliverables?
- What accountabilities are in place, and set by whom?
- What are the monitoring and support systems?
- What are the recording and reporting systems?
- How is cross SCC sharing/learning facilitated within the division?

Things are goin' great ...

2025



And they're only getting' better.

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The future's so bright ...

2025



I gotta wear shades!



THANK YOU!

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