

RCPS PARENTS ARE POWERFUL



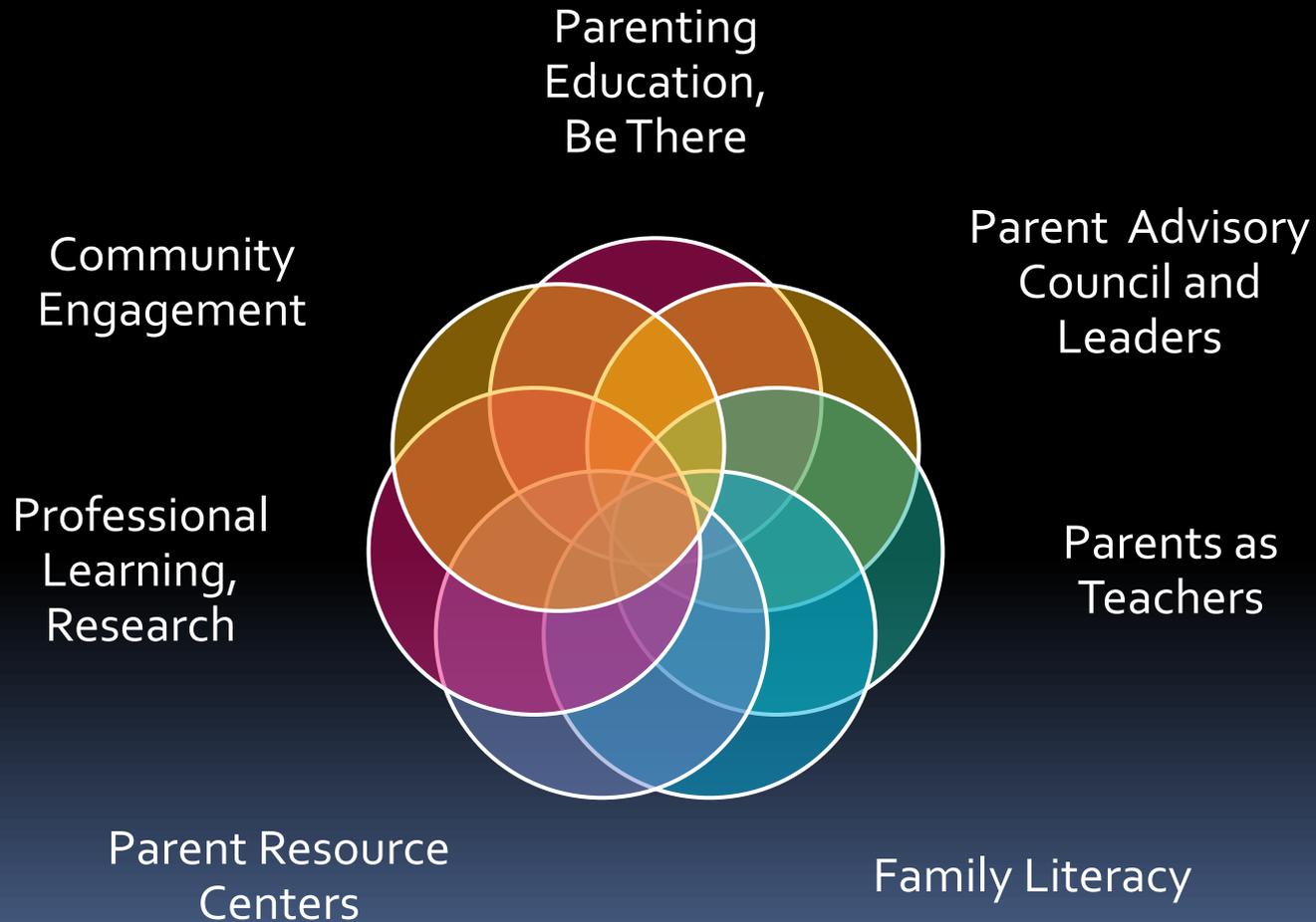
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PARENTS ARE POWERFUL



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RCPS DISTRICT INITIATIVE



PARENTS ARE POWERFUL

Parents
become
more
engaged



Students
succeed

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- Where do we begin?
- How do we get buy-in?
- How do we measure success?

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RCPS Belief Statements:

- WE BELIEVE THAT family is the most important factor in the development of the individual
- WE BELIEVE THAT a safe and orderly environment is essential to community
- WE BELIEVE THAT every person is worthy of respect
- WE BELIEVE THAT all human beings have the capacity to learn
- WE BELIEVE THAT every person deserves the opportunity to succeed

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U.S. Department of Education's definition:

- Parent involvement occurs when parents and educators participate in “regular two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities.”

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Strategic Plan 2008

District Level Responsibilities:

- Coordinators/Liaisons in every school
- Identification, create opportunities
- Engage

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Strategic Plan Continued...

- Survey schools and research best practices
- Implement system-wide if successful
- Annual assessment



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Research

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No matter what their family income or background may be students with involved parents are more likely to

- Earn higher grades and test scores
- Be promoted
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social and behavior skills
- Graduate

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- Parent Involvement is usually centered around events
- Usually engaging engaged
- Doesn't reach those who need it, but we continue to do it the same way
- We're successful if we engage the disengaged



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- We need a PROCESS, not a strategy
- We can't fix it with a newsletter

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Barriers to Parent Involvement

- No one asked them
- Don't know how to become involved
- Lack of time
- Uncomfortable
- Lack of interest

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Schools

must communicate to families their rights and responsibilities, as well as how they can support schools

Families and communities

contribute by providing feedback or directly shaping policies, programs, student achievement, etc.



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Best Practices

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Family

- Family centered planning and programming

Services

- Fit services to families, not families to services

Responsibility

- Mutual responsibility

Leadership

- Bidirectional leadership

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Family Engagement

- Cannot be school-centric
- Not an add-on
- Part of the instructional core

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The Tough Stuff

- Culture change
- Role can be a double-edged sword
- Invisible Engagement

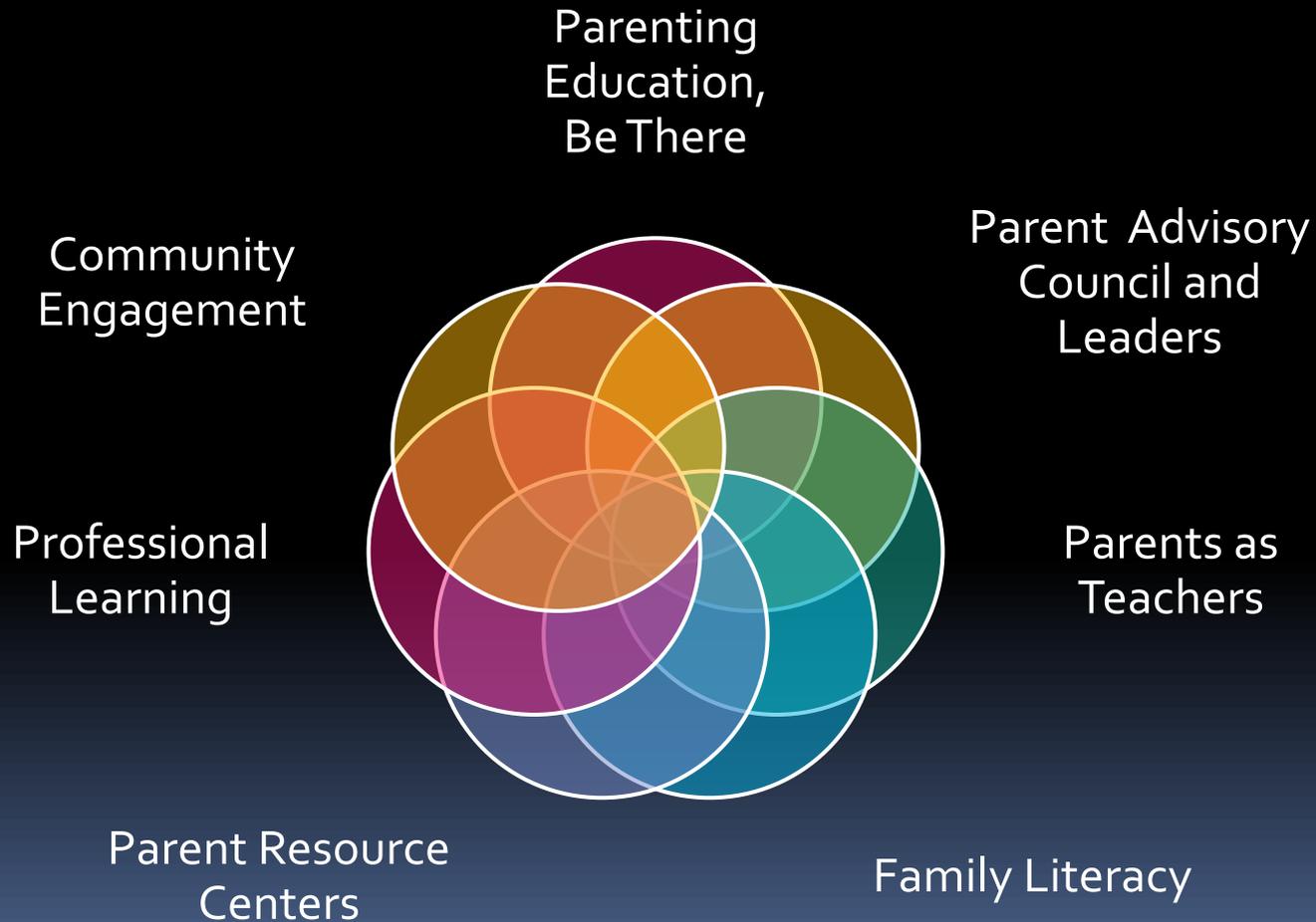
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Retaining Parent Involvement

- Warm and supportive environment
- Feeling involved, valued
- Having fun
- Personal need is being met
- Opportunity to establish network

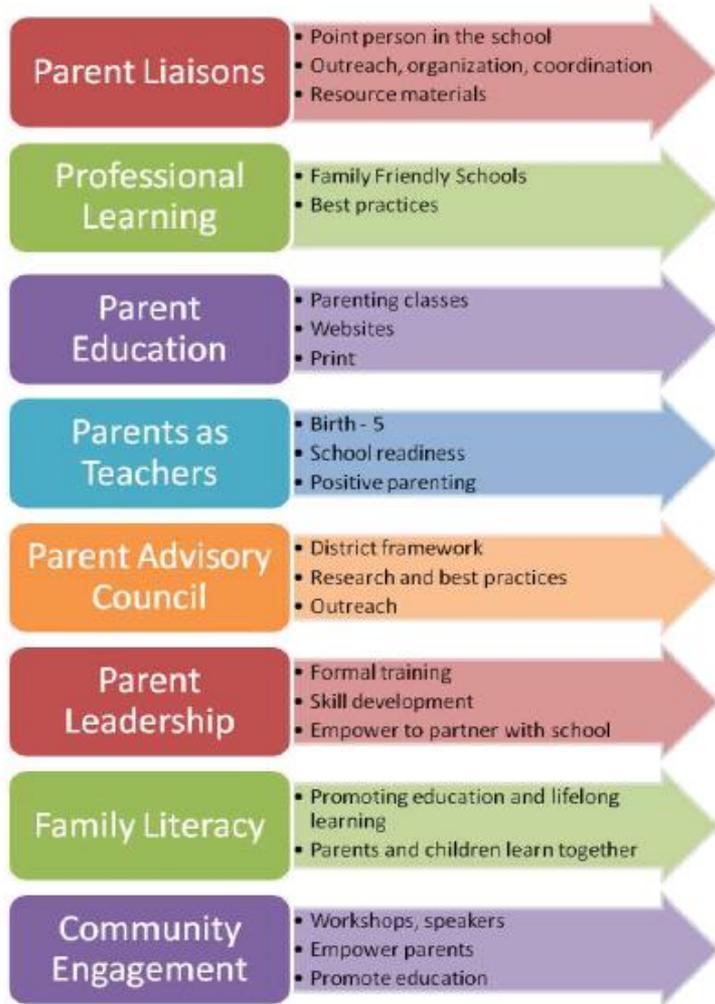
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RCPS DISTRICT INITIATIVE



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FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT



STUDENT
SUCCESS

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- Research
- Presented at principal meetings, discussed individually
- Involved Title I Coordinator
- Coordinated parent liaison meetings
- Involved in-house PR
- Developed relationships with the media
- Created newsletters, website
- Provided resources



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Parent Advisory Council

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Framework to Establish Parent Engagement

- Connected with Parent Liaisons
- Create a vision
- Create a list of best practices
- Outreach
- 2 representatives from each school
- Meet once a month
- No budget

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Joyce Epstein's Model for Parent Involvement

1. Parenting
2. Communication
3. Volunteering
4. Learning at Home
5. Leadership/Decision Making
6. Collaborating with the Community.

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PTA National Standards

1. Welcoming all Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

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PAC Events

- District-level workshops
- Principal's Reception
- Developed goals
 - Outreach
 - Media
 - Community
 - National Parent Leadership Month
 - Parent Leadership Summit

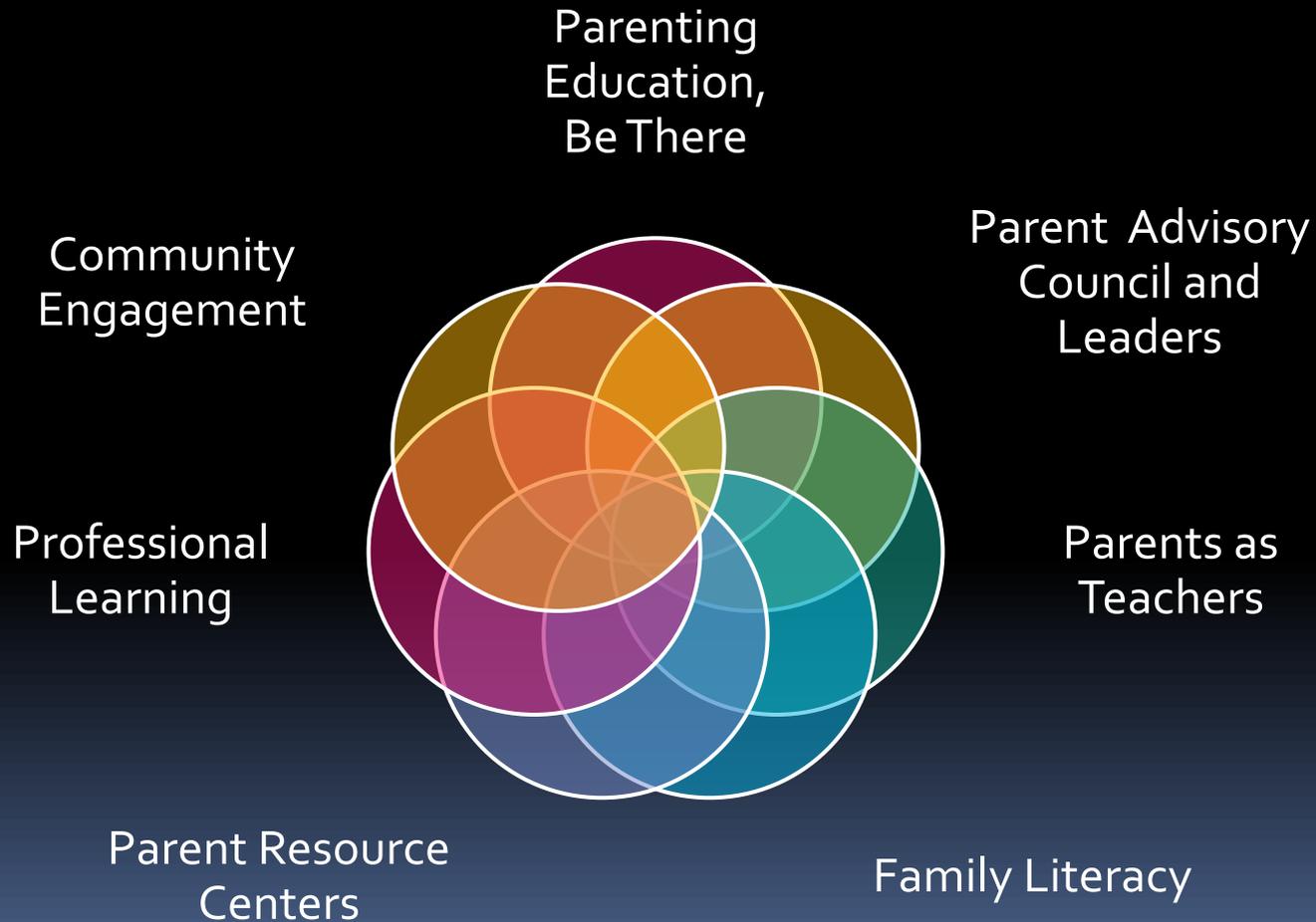
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Parents as Teachers

- 4 Parent Educators who provide educational home visits
- Literacy, child development, parent leadership
- Focus on teen parents

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- *Shapes and Color Wall*



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Parents as Teachers

- Outreach to community
 - Neighborhood resource centers
 - Parent Resource Center
 - Group meetings

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Professional Development/ School Improvement

- Family Friendly Schools
- Focus Walks
- Climate surveys
- Secret shoppers
- Expectations