

# RCPS PARENTS ARE POWERFUL



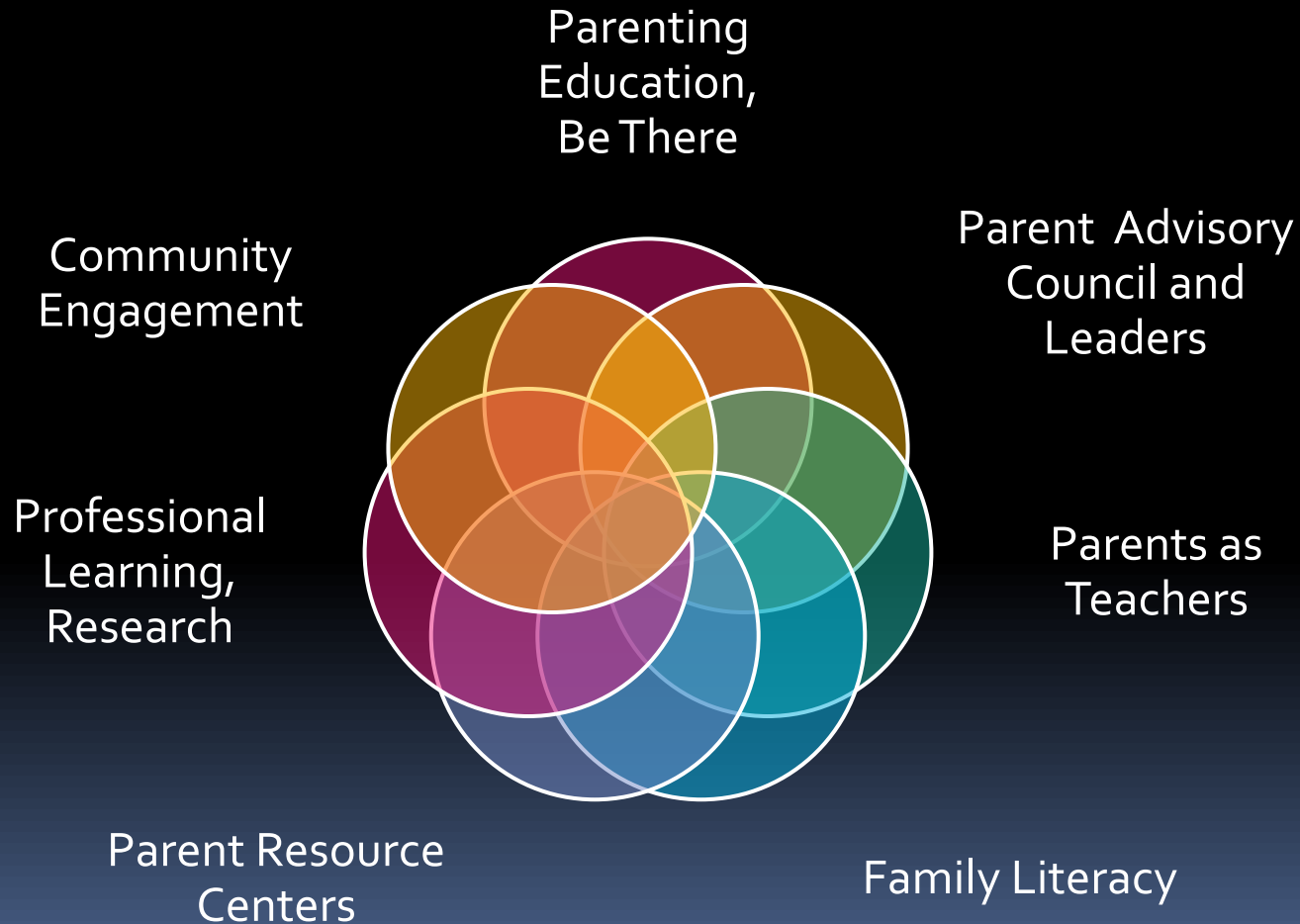
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# PARENTS ARE POWERFUL



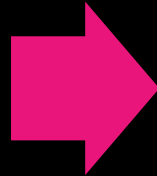
# RCPS PARENTS ARE POWERFUL

## RCPS DISTRICT INITIATIVE



# PARENTS ARE POWERFUL

Parents  
become  
more  
engaged



Students  
succeed



# PARENTS ARE POWERFUL

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

# PARENTS ARE POWERFUL

## 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





# PARENTS ARE POWERFUL

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.”
- 



# PARENTS ARE POWERFUL

## 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

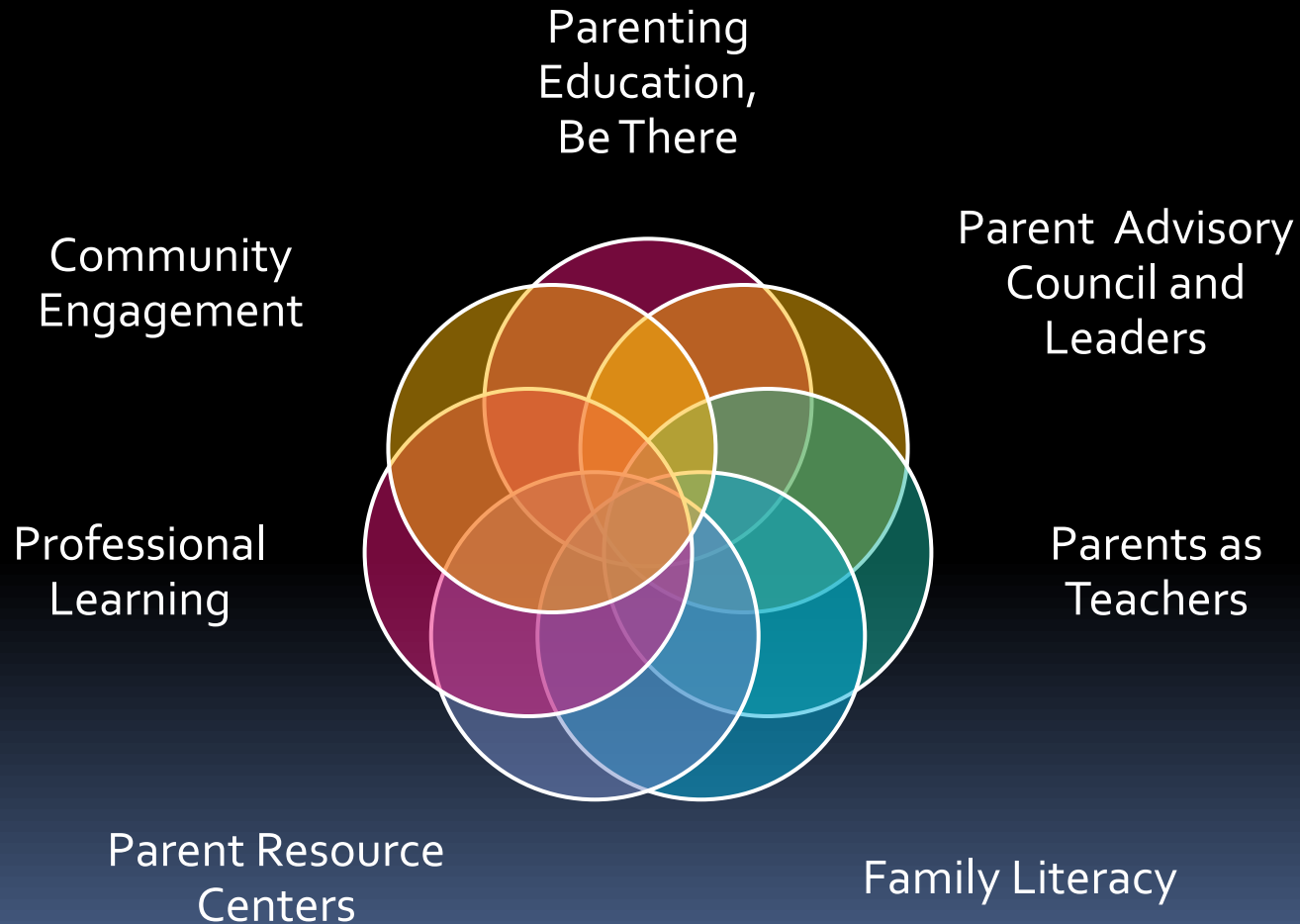
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## Retaining Parent Involvement

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

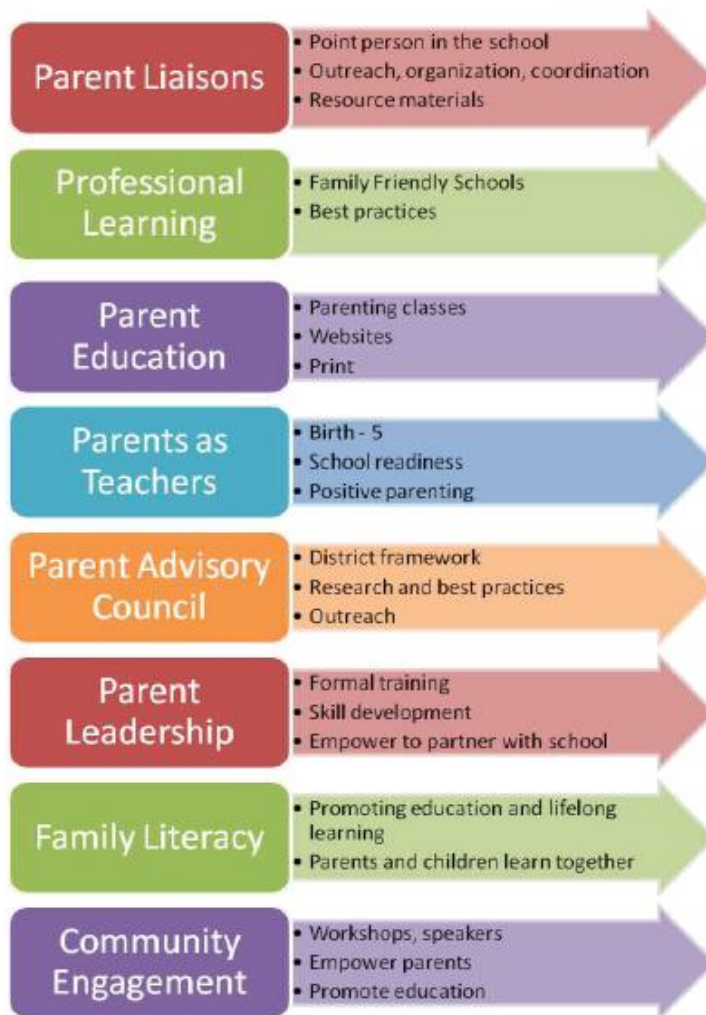
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## RCPS DISTRICT INITIATIVE



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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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**RCPS DISTRICT INITIATIVE**


# 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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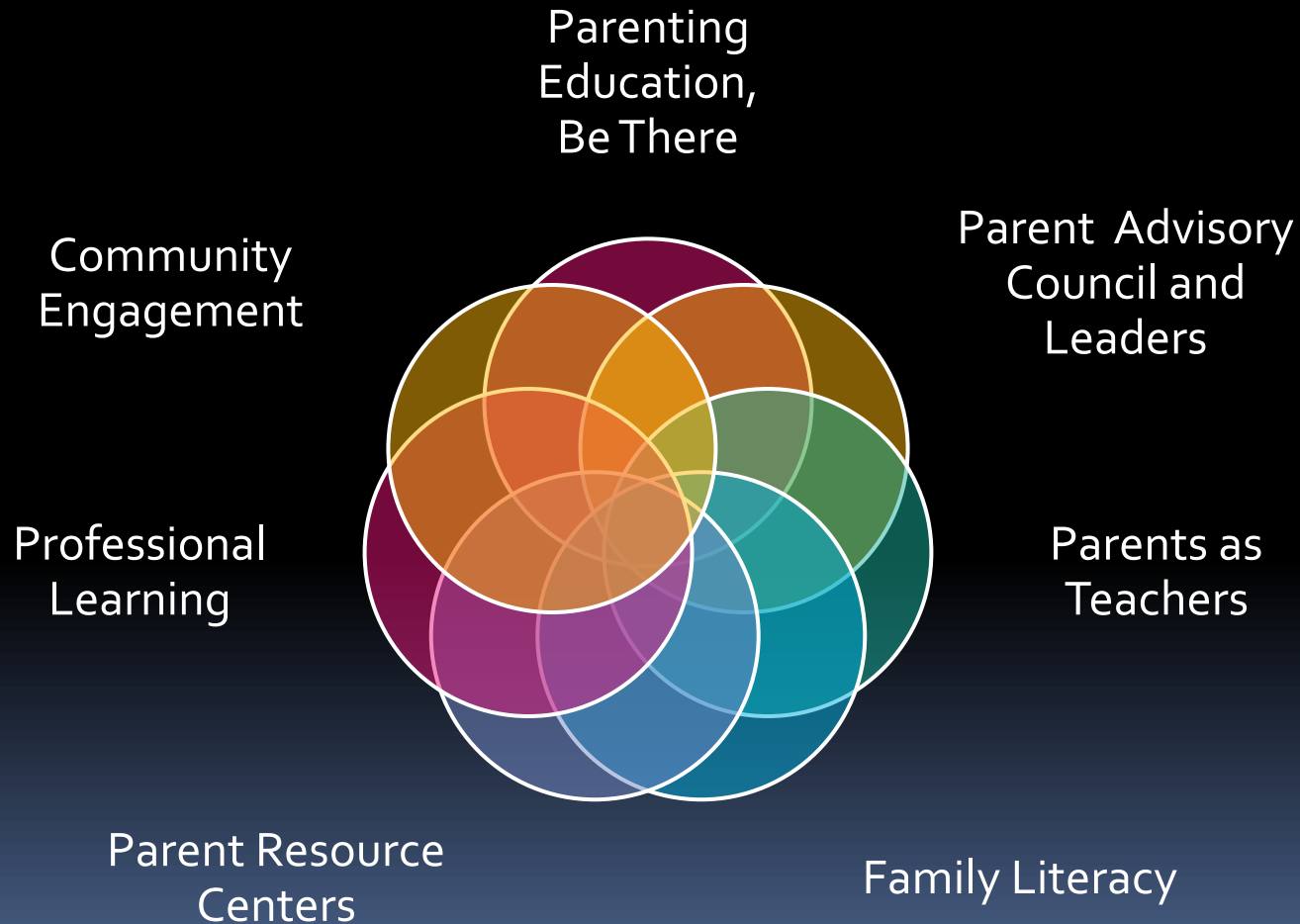
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### Parents as Teachers

- 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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  - Community engagement

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### Professional Development/ School Improvement

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