ED 589: Engaging Parents Effectively To Remove Barriers in Learning

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This structure of this course can be compared to a funnel. There is widespread recognition that increasing parent engagement with schools (in general) and in their child’s education (in particular) is an essential component of any quality educational process. Whether a community is a large urban district setting or small rural district, a common point of emphasis is that educators be prepared to engage parents effectively regardless of the topic.

While it seems to be very common sense, creating the conditions for effective engagement of parents and community is also more challenging to implement than we want to admit. There are a number of reasons for this, but regardless of those reasons it doesn’t change the fact that we cannot set parent and community engagement aside for “more important things.” In almost every area of education, effective parent engagement increases the likelihood of success for the community, for families, for educators – and most importantly – for students.

This course exists for the sole purpose of providing a way to help by providing educators professional learning opportunities to build their own expertise in effective engagement of parents to remove barriers to learning. Doing this will open up a number of avenues to partner with parents in more meaningful ways. It is doubtful that pre-service training has fully prepared educators for all the wide range of challenges they will face.

Focusing on collaborating, cooperating, communicating and conferencing with parents to promote student success. The teacher as leader and the teacher as manager will learn effective communication and organizational skills for working with parents to solve academic and behavioral challenges to ensure positive student outcomes. Based on the underlying principals inherent in the Value Set of Safety, Order and Rights® and effective teaching strategies, participants will learn to create an effective plan for interacting with parents utilizing proven communication skills. The plan leads to a logical discussion about the problems the child is having in school and moves parents from a defensive position to a position where they become committed participants in the solution.

Participants will learn ways to organize observations and thoughts about a student and confidently and professionally present a well-documented and thoughtful discussion of this sensitive topic. Participants will also learn effective strategies for overcoming resistance from parents and how to gather relevant facts and present them in ways that communicate with authority and impartiality, gaining parental support.