

FAMILY LEADERSHIP INDICATORS FRAMEWORK

The Family Leadership Indicators Framework outlines what high-quality family leadership initiatives look like and the outcomes they generate across families, institutions, and communities. The framework emphasizes family self-efficacy, participant-informed practices, and meaningful family decision-making.

Family Self-Efficacy

High-quality initiatives strengthen families' belief in their own agency and capacity to create change. As the framework explains, “Families' increase their sense of efficacy, or the feeling that they can make a difference” (p. 5). This includes confidence in influencing schools, overcoming barriers, setting and achieving goals, and contributing meaningful change.

Access-Oriented Practices

Effective initiatives are intentionally designed to support broad participation. This includes removing structural barriers (cost, transportation, childcare), ensuring representation reflective of the broader community, and committing to strong outcomes regardless of background, income, or language.

Participant-Centered Approach

A participant-centered practice is foundational to high-quality family leadership. The framework emphasizes that high-quality family leadership “Values, respects, and engages the [background] of participants” (p. 2). Curriculum and models are adapted to be relevant and practical, multilingual supports are provided, and families' backgrounds, language, and lived expertise are centered as assets.

The Value of Family Decision-Making

Family leadership is not symbolic; it is structural. The framework highlights that high-quality family leadership “Gives families opportunities for decision-making and participation, including initiative structure, content, design, and delivery” (p. 2). Advisory boards, shared governance, data-informed feedback loops, and collaborative design processes position families as co-creators rather than passive recipients.

Collectively, these indicators show that strong family leadership initiatives not only increase engagement, but also build civic capacity, systems knowledge, and shared decision-making power. When implemented with fidelity, such initiatives produce ripple effects across schools and communities.



Three Big Ideas About Family Leadership

1. Families **join** when initiatives are designed to support broad participation.
 - a. Ways to make initiatives support broad participation at our school:

2. Families **stay** when they feel valued and part of decision making.
 - a. Ways to make families feel valued and part of decision-making at our school:

3. Families **flourish** when initiatives create community.
 - a. Ways to create community within initiatives at our school:

Based on: Geller, J., et al. (2017). *Evaluating Initiatives to Develop Parent Leadership: Measuring What Matters: The Parent Leadership Development Indicators Framework*. New York, NY: Parent Leadership Indicators Project at the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools at NYU Steinhardt.

