OREGON

Transforming Family Engagement

"One of the foundational pillars of effective practice is that whatever initiative a school or district designs, there has to be a real intentional focus on building relationships of trust and respect with families. The relational piece is the glue that holds the rest of the initiative together. Having trust is really important for any initiative to be sustained."

-Dr. Karen Mapp

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An About-FACE for Education

In 2019 Oregon passed the Student Success Act, which allocates $1 billion a year to early learning and K–12 education. This legislation also requires districts to create family and community engagement initiatives in their plans for spending these funds. The **Southern Oregon Education Service District (SOESD)** and **Better Together** quickly realized that they needed support to strengthen and transform their family and community engagement practices, and they reached out to Scholastic FACE for help. Better Together, a nonprofit program that sits under the High Desert Education Service District, activates networks across sectors and communities to transform the systems that serve children, youth, and families.

A Framework for Success

Administrators in the **SOESD** and **Better Together** decided to base their efforts on the principles outlined in Dr. Karen Mapp's work with the U.S. Department of Education on how to provide effective family and community engagement. Specifically, they wanted to provide professional learning and coaching for educators that would lead to equitable partnerships with students' families by exploring and understanding Dr. Mapp's core beliefs for family engagement, assessing their current engagement practices, and finding a common language for explicitly tying community outreach to student learning and development.

Our Partnership

Scholastic specialists worked with the **SOESD** and **Better Together** to conduct book studies and remote professional learning sessions based on Dr. Karen Mapp's Dual Capacity—Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships. We also partnered with SOESD and the Oregon Department of

> The partnership and relationship we have built with the FACE team at Scholastic has been powerful in so many ways. They have modeled what this work is by coming alongside us, guiding in the next steps, and meeting the many uniquenesses of our community. By engaging and leaning into learning, **our region has made a commitment to building effective partnerships for students and families to thrive**. Dr. Mapp's Dual-Capacity Framework has and will continue to be the foundation moving us forward on this journey of learning.
>
> Rutila Galvan-Rodriguez, Executive Director of Better Together

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Education to develop a three-part training program for district teams based on the state's Community Engagement Toolkit.

At Hugh Hartman Elementary and Sisters High School, specialists provided on-site family engagement assessments to explore how welcome families were in the school community and how engaged they were with each school's learning process, and we created plans for improving that outreach going forward.

What's Next?

Scholastic continues to work with the **SOESD** and **Better Together** to develop content and strategies that will reduce chronic absenteeism, welcome and reengage families, and above all, build the trust that allows every stakeholder to unite as a team with a shared, cohesive mission. As Dr. Mapp says, when educators "realize engaging families makes their jobs easier, not harder," an enthusiasm for community-based learning can transform cultures to become launching pads for sustained student success, both in and out of the classroom.

> Dr. Mapp's Dual Capacity—Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships and our collaboration with Scholastic's FACE team has helped our districts to understand that **family engagement is a process and not a program and an essential component of teaching and learning** and not in addition to the work that they are doing. This has strengthened the family engagement work that our districts are doing and is supporting them, as they start working on their Integrated Guidance plans.
>
> Tanya Frisendahl, Student Success Act Consultant for the SEOSD

Want to learn more about our Family and Community Engagement Solutions?
Contact your Scholastic Education Solutions partner today!

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