

What Do the Five Roles Look Like in Practice?

At Flamboyan, we have seen, and research shows, that families play Five Essential Roles in their children's education. All families deserve access to the information and connections they need to play these roles well. We also recognize that family engagement is the responsibility of every member of a school system – from families to teachers to system leaders.

FIVE ROLES	EDUCATOR	FAMILY
 <p>COMMUNICATE HIGH EXPECTATIONS</p>	<p>Educators can help families communicate high expectations by sharing key age-appropriate milestones for academic and social-emotional success, along with aligned actions families can take to support learning at home.</p>	<p>Families support their child's success by consistently communicating high expectations for performance in and out of the classroom.</p>
 <p>MONITOR THEIR CHILD'S PERFORMANCE</p>	<p>Educators can help families monitor their child's performance by consistently communicating about student progress and responding promptly to questions or concerns.</p>	<p>Families monitor their child's performance by maintaining regular communication with both their child and educators about academic progress and overall well-being.</p>
 <p>SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME</p>	<p>Educators can partner with families to support learning at home through regular communication and collaboration, for example, sharing meaningful questions to discuss with their child.</p>	<p>Families support learning at home by practicing key skills with their child, using resources shared by educators, and setting up routines that make learning part of daily life.</p>
 <p>GUIDE THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION</p>	<p>Educators can partner with families to guide their child's education by sharing information that helps them plan for important transitions, from Pre-K to kindergarten, from elementary to middle school, and beyond. When families know what to expect, they can find the right resources to help their child thrive.</p>	<p>Families guide their child's education by preparing for key school transitions and seeking out resources that promote their child's readiness and long-term success.</p>
 <p>ADVOCATE FOR THEIR CHILD</p>	<p>Educators can help families advocate for their child by listening to and understanding families' concerns. This requires reflecting on and addressing implicit and explicit biases that may prevent educators from fully hearing and responding to those concerns.</p>	<p>Families advocate for their child by ensuring they receive the resources and support needed to succeed in school.</p>

How Can School + System Leaders Support Families to Play the Five Roles?

SCHOOL LEADER

School leaders play a critical role in setting expectations, building capacity, and communicating the importance of family engagement for educators and school staff. These actions help to ensure that families are able to play the 5 roles for their child. For example:

- School leaders build time into the calendar throughout the school year for teachers to communicate with families proactively and individually.
- School leaders use time during professional development and staff meetings to discuss Family Engagement as a strategy to achieve student academic and social-emotional success. This includes looking at and analyzing data, sharing best practices, and setting goals for family engagement outcomes, like survey feedback.
- School leaders set school-wide expectations for family engagement and provide the tools, training and time to help educators be successful in meeting those expectations including baseline communication expectations, guidelines for parent-teacher conferences, and online gradebooks.
- School leaders model best practices for family partnership, including listening to the community, communicating with families proactively and consistently, and inviting families in as partners in their child's learning.

SYSTEM LEADER

System Leaders create the conditions for families to play the 5 roles in their child's education by directing resources, drafting policies, and removing barriers to make family engagement a priority. For example:

- System leaders help remove roadblocks to communication between families and schools by implementing district-wide solutions, such as a standardized two-way communication system or streamlined Student Information Systems (SIS), to ensure families have access to accurate, up-to-date information.
- System leaders make easy-to-access gradebooks available for all students and publicly post their grading policies and an explanation of the student report card.
- System Leaders direct funding to evidence-based Family Engagement strategies like Relationship Building Home Visits or materials to help families support learning at home.
- System leaders ensure, through hiring, professional development, and promotion practices, that all staff, regardless of role, believe in the power of partnership and the impact of family engagement on school improvement and student success.
- System leaders implement mechanisms for listening and responding to family voices, like a listening tour of the community or a family survey tool.