

When We Partner, Everyone Wins!

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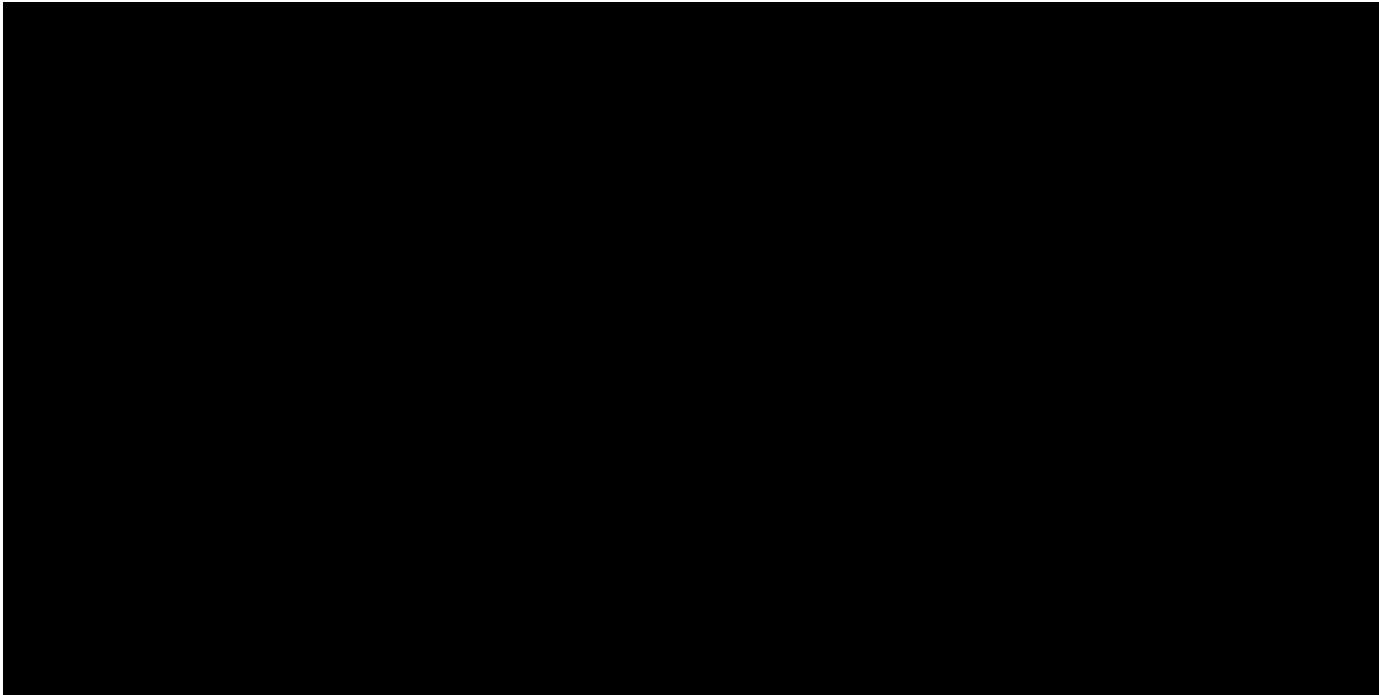
Karen L. Mapp, EdD
Harvard Graduate School of
Education



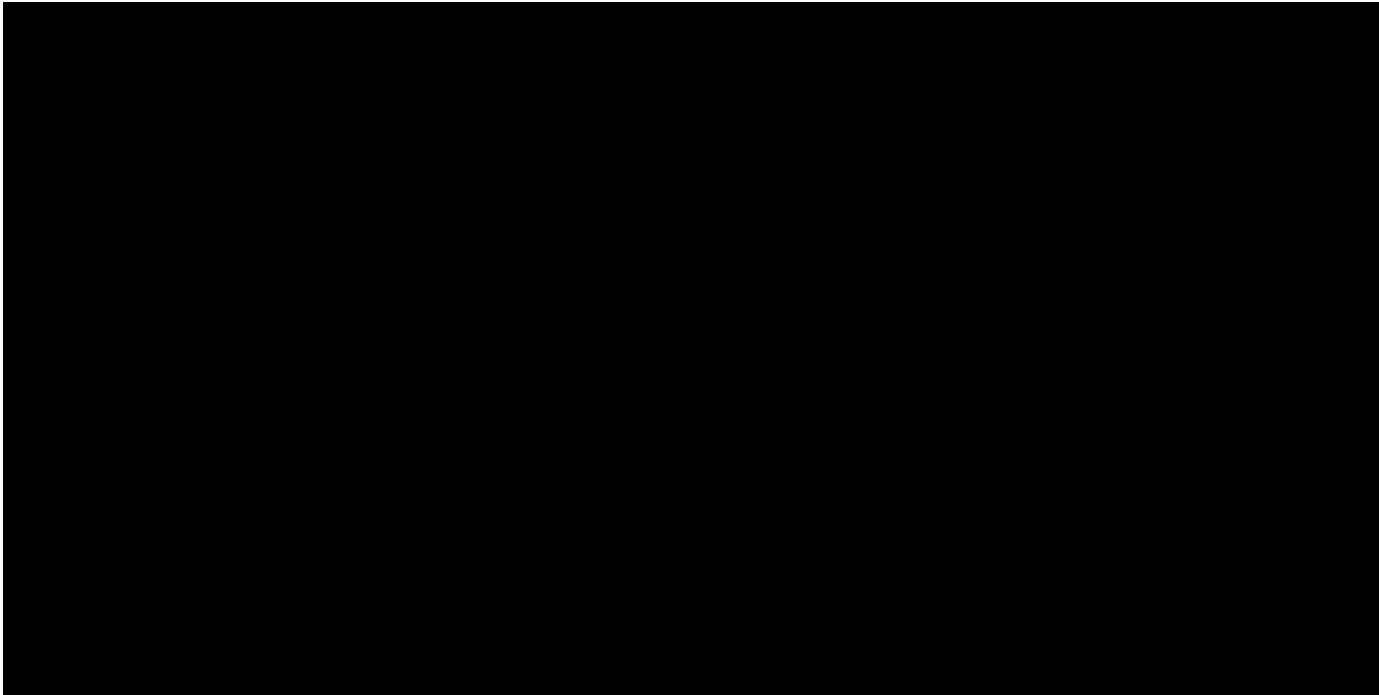


Defining Family Engagement

I used to think...



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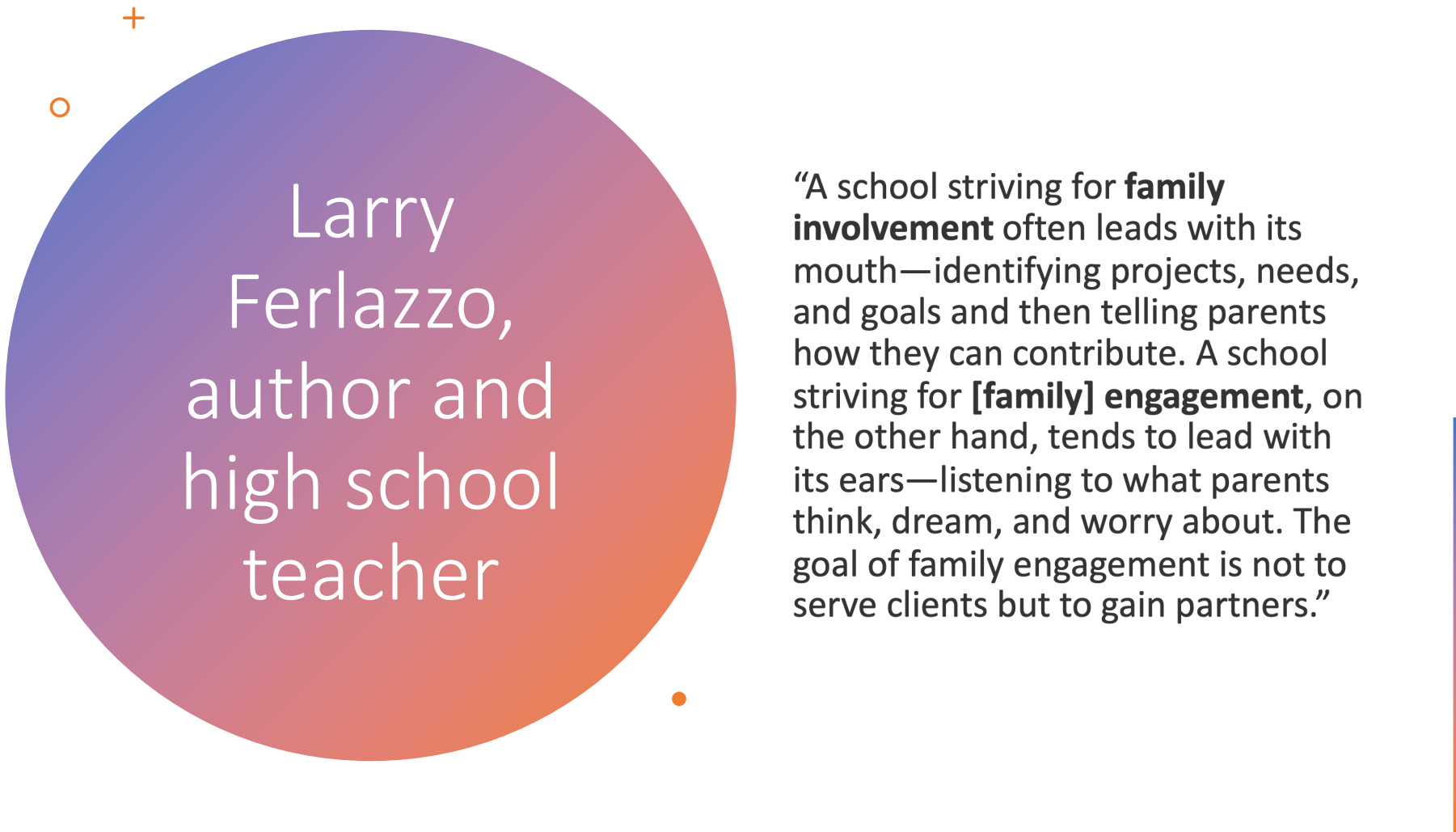


What struck you about what
Jessica said or did about
family engagement?

Definition of Family Engagement

Family Engagement is a ***full, equal, and equitable partnership*** among families, educators and community partners to promote children's learning and development from birth through college and career.

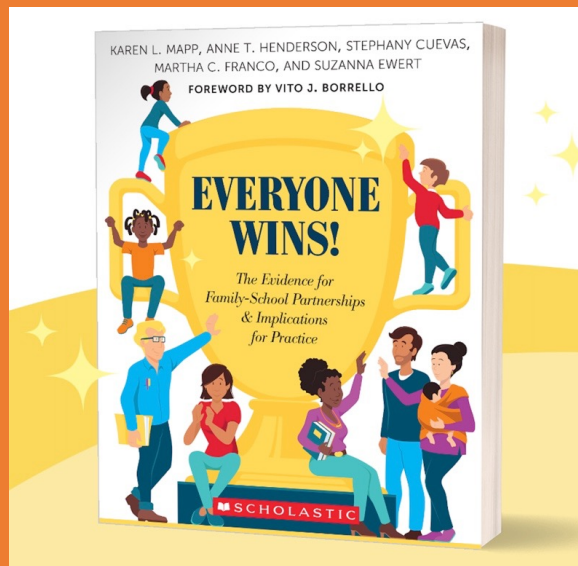




Larry
Ferlazzo,
author and
high school
teacher

“A school striving for **family involvement** often leads with its mouth—identifying projects, needs, and goals and then telling parents how they can contribute. A school striving for **[family] engagement**, on the other hand, tends to lead with its ears—listening to what parents think, dream, and worry about. The goal of family engagement is not to serve clients but to gain partners.”

What have we learned
about the impact of family
engagement?



Everyone Wins! - Fifth
installment of the *Evidence* series

20 years since the publication of
A New Wave of Evidence

Selected 40 studies out of over
100 reviewed

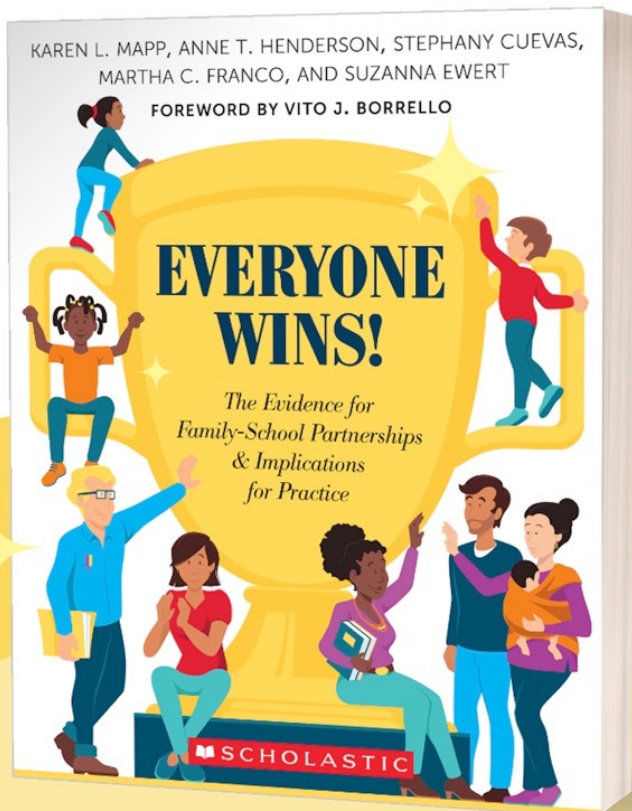
Studies span from 2002-2021

—

Extra! Extra!

Two Big Headlines
from our review
of the 40 studies





1) Home–school partnerships benefit not only our students, but also educators, families, schools, districts, and communities

2) We know the elements and conditions for high impact practice (no more speculation!)

Wins for Students

- Higher grades and test scores
- Better attendance and engagement in class
- More positive attitudes and behavior
- Greater sense of efficacy and self-esteem
- Higher graduation rates and college/postsecondary attendance



Wins for Educators

- Shift from deficit-to asset-based thinking about students and families
- Increased multicultural awareness and appreciation
- Greater success motivating and engaging students
- More support from families
- Stronger morale and professional satisfaction



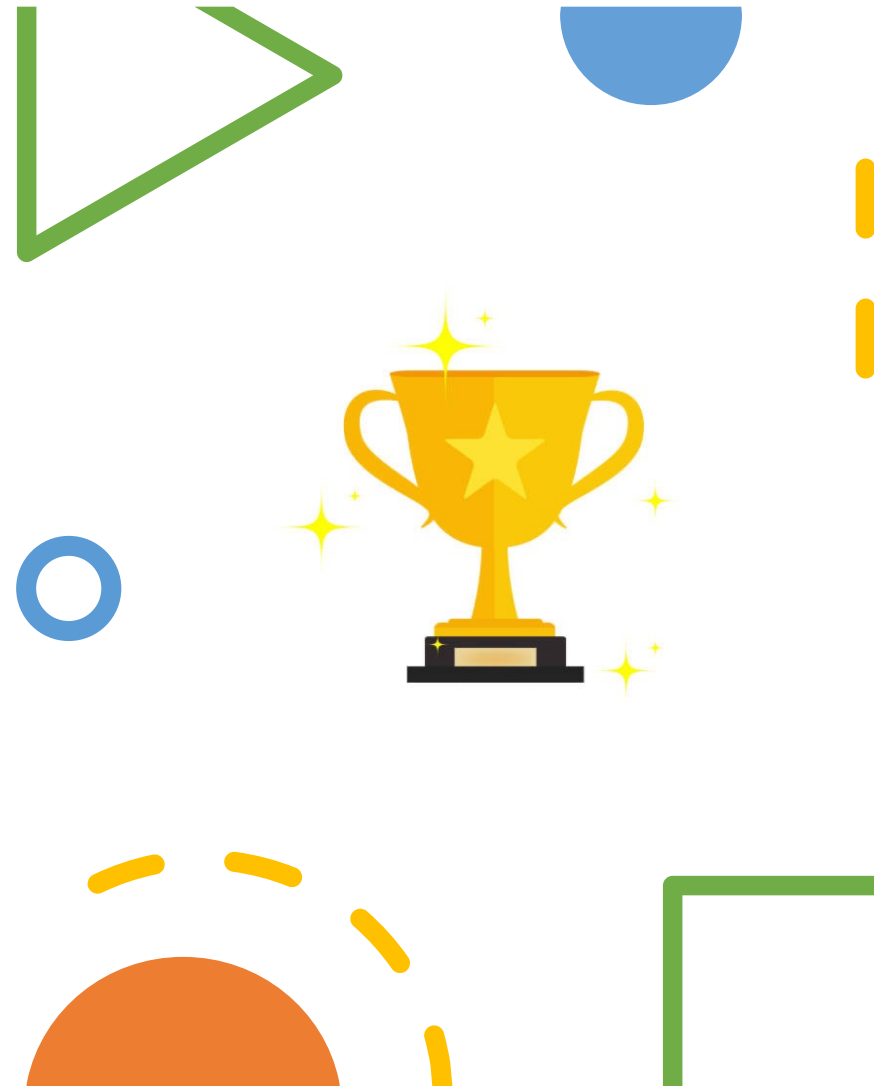
Wins for Families

- Stronger parent-child relationships
- Better rapport with teachers and school staff
- Greater understanding of child's progress and how to help
- More knowledge and skill in advocating for their child
- Increased deep and supportive social connections



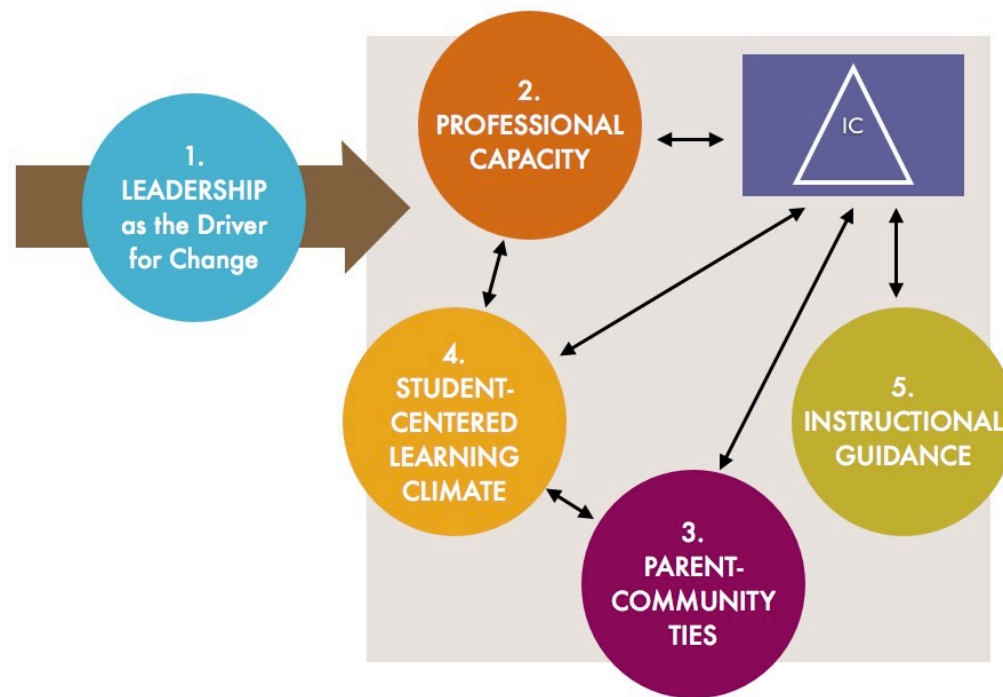
Wins for Schools

- More positive school climate
- Higher morale and greater retention of teachers
- Improved facilities, better curriculum, and higher-quality programs
- More responsive to community concerns
- Better reputation and more support from the community



FIVE ESSENTIAL SUPPORTS

The University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research



Wins for Districts and Communities

- Reduced suspensions and high-risk behaviors
- Increased family and youth involvement in site-based decisions
- Expanded mental and physical health resources leading to improved health
- High levels of participation in afterschool programs
- Increased high school graduation rate



Why, despite all the *Evidence*, has it been difficult to cultivate and sustain effective family-school partnerships that support student achievement and school improvement?



Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

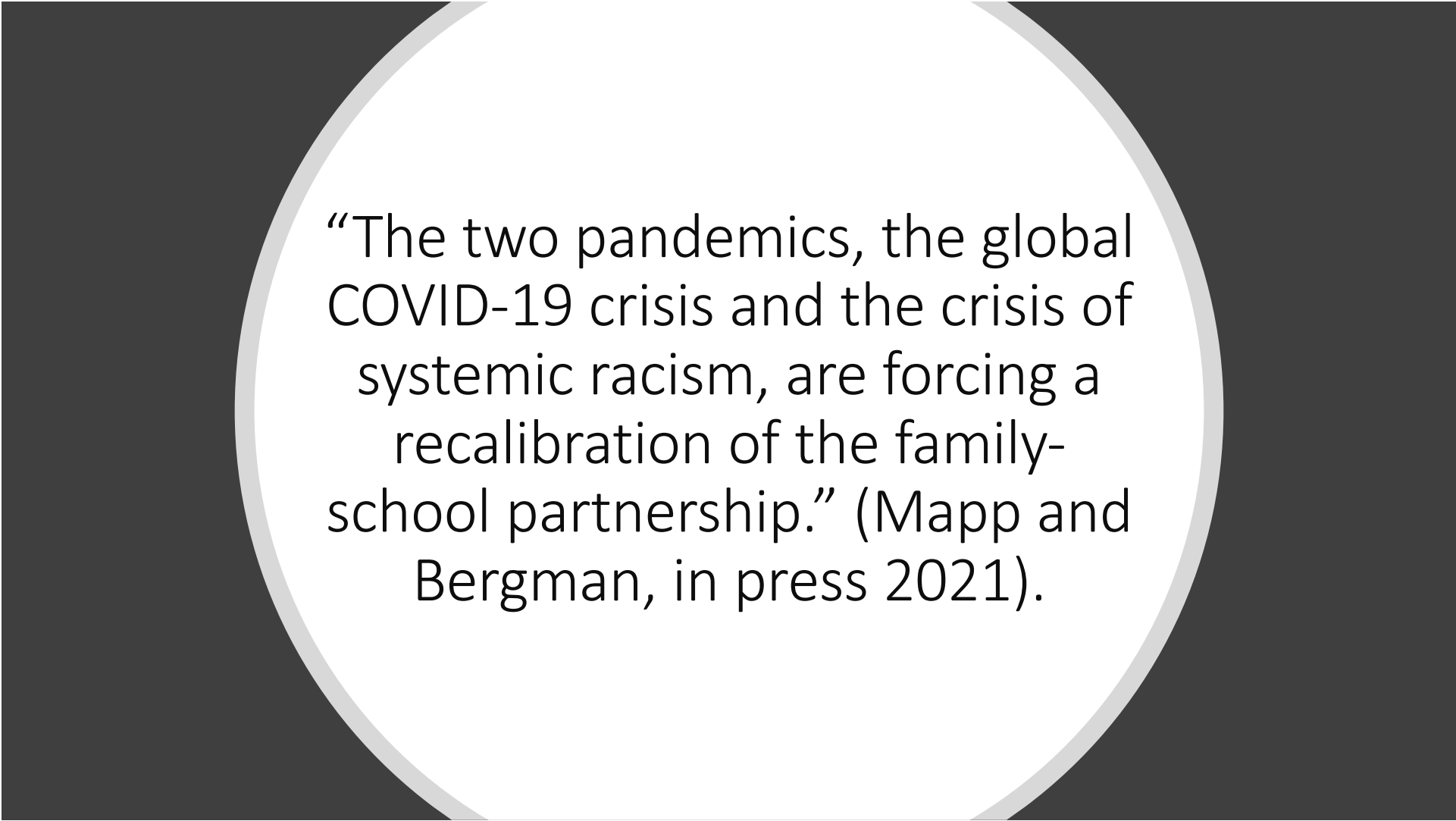
Isabel Wilkerson

“As we go about our daily lives, caste is the wordless usher in a darkened theater, flashlight cast down in the aisles, guiding us to our assigned seats in a performance. The hierarchy of caste is not about feelings or morality. It is about **power** — which groups have it and which do not. It is about resources — which caste is seen as worthy of them and which are not, who gets to acquire them and who does not. It is about respect, authority, and assumptions of competence — who is accorded these and who is not.”





The Way Forward



“The two pandemics, the global COVID-19 crisis and the crisis of systemic racism, are forcing a recalibration of the family-school partnership.” (Mapp and Bergman, in press 2021).

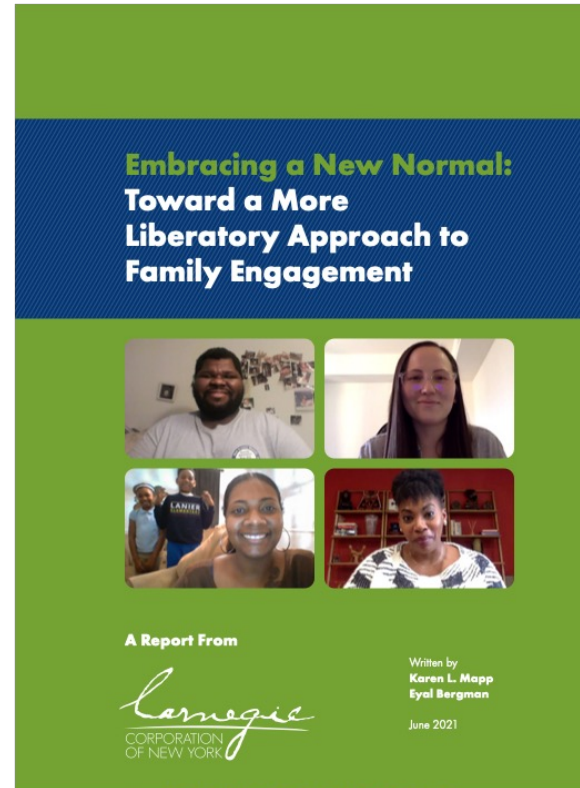


Emerging Themes Coming out of the Two Pandemics

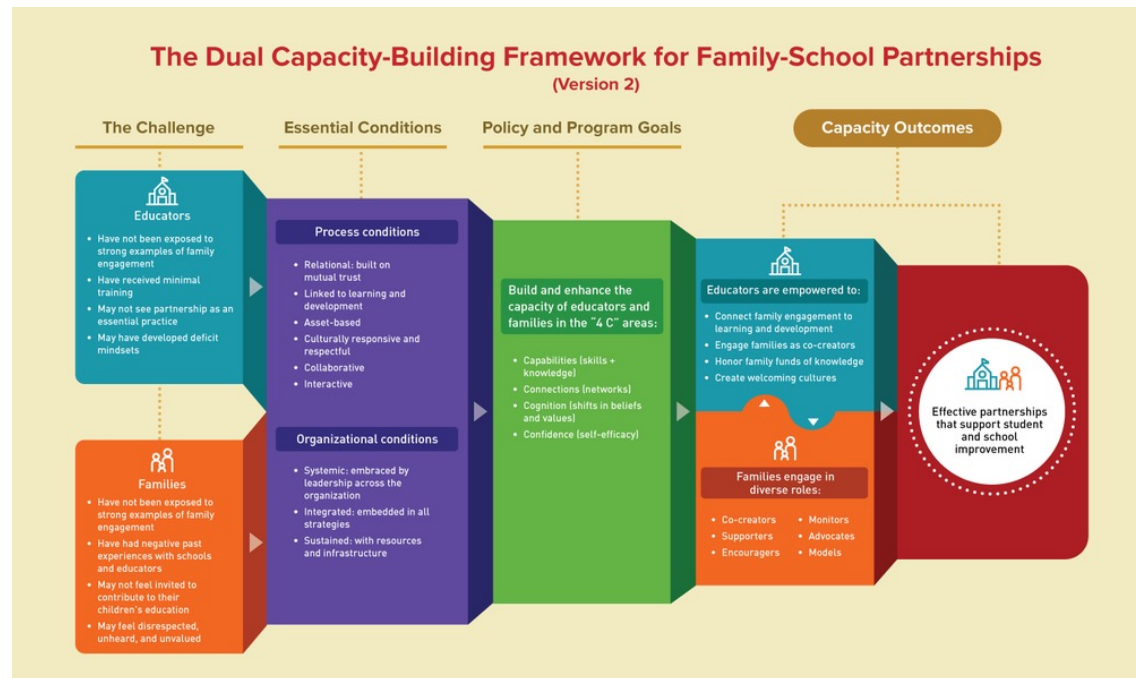
- Relationships Matter! Schools and classrooms that developed strong relationships of trust with families prior to the pandemic:
 - found the pivot easier than schools that had not prioritized partnerships.
 - report smoother transitions and less-than-expected learning loss.
- Families know more, understand more, and do more than educators gave them credit for before the pandemic.
- Educators want and need capacity building on how to build and sustain effective partnerships with families.

The New Normal of Family Engagement is:

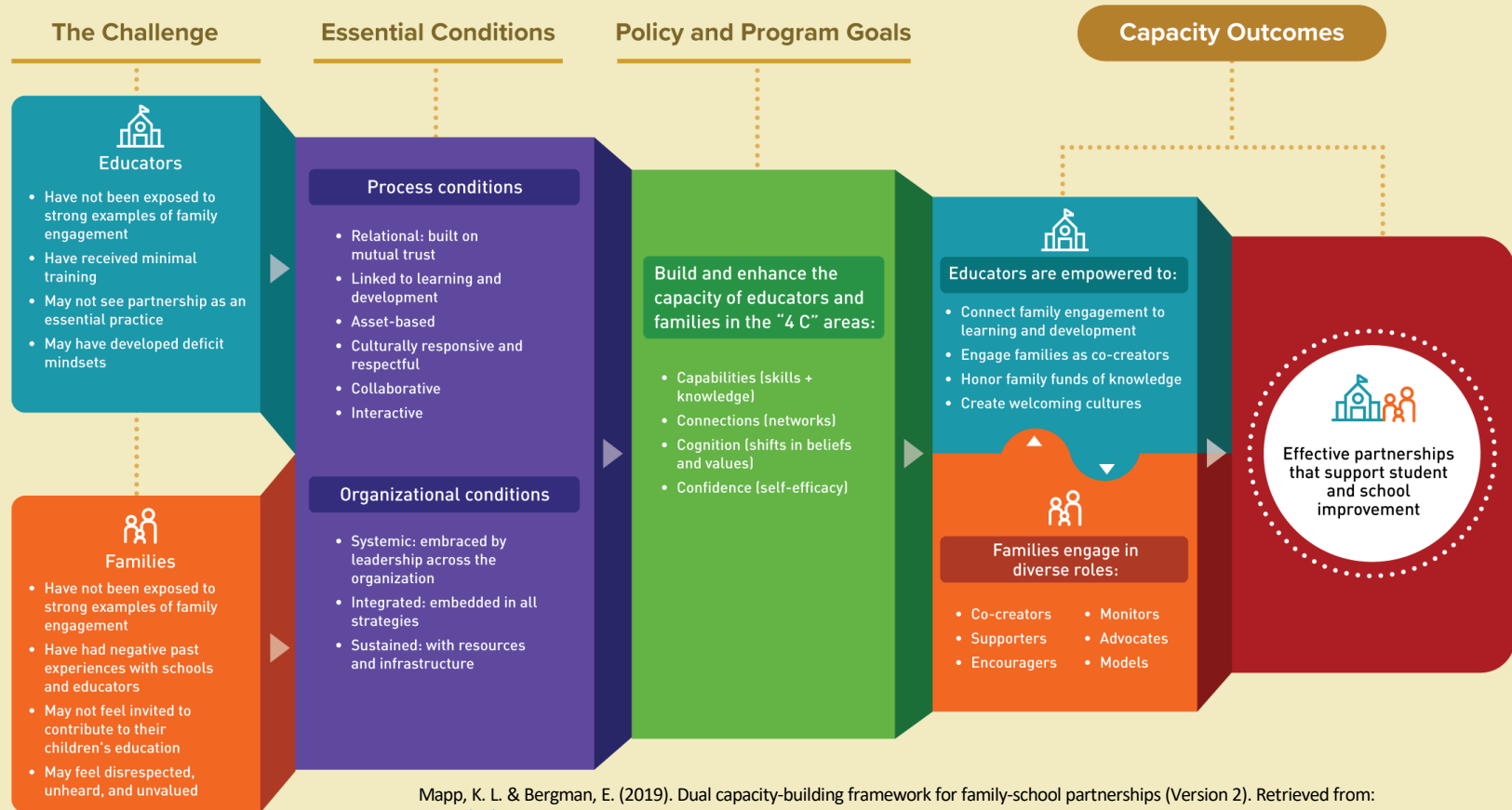
- Liberatory
- Solidarity-driven
- Equity-focused



The moment is meeting the *The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family School Partnerships*



The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)



Mapp, K. L. & Bergman, E. (2019). Dual capacity-building framework for family-school partnerships (Version 2). Retrieved from: www.dualcapacity.org

The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships

(Version 2)

The Challenge



Educators

- Have not been exposed to strong examples of family engagement
- Have received minimal training
- May not see partnership as an essential practice
- May have developed deficit mindsets



Families

- Have not been exposed to strong examples of family engagement
- Have had negative past experiences with schools and educators
- May not feel invited to contribute to their children's education
- May feel disrespected, unheard, and unvalued



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Essential Conditions

Process conditions

- Relational: built on mutual trust
- Linked to learning and development
- Asset-based
- Culturally responsive and respectful
- Collaborative
- Interactive

Organizational conditions

- Systemic: embraced by leadership across the organization
- Integrated: embedded in all strategies
- Sustained: with resources and infrastructure


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...and infrastructure

Elements of relational trust

Respect

Competence

Integrity

Personal regard

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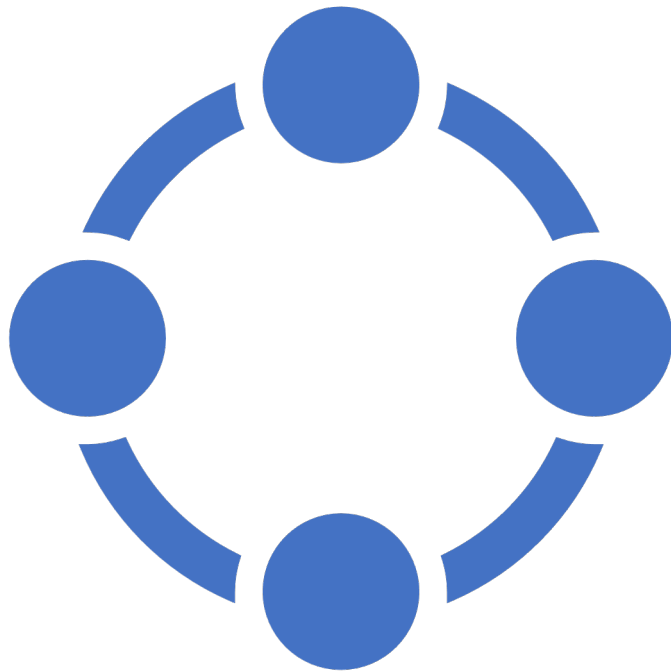
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What conditions are needed to support and sustain this “new normal” of engagement?

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A large orange shape on the left side of the slide, consisting of a vertical rectangle on the left and a quarter-circle on the right. The text 'Additional Support and Resources' is written in white inside this shape.

Additional Support and Resources

- *Everyone Wins!* www.dualcapacity.org
- *Powerful Partnerships* (2017)
- Annual IEL National Family and Community Engagement Conference, June 2023
- Harvard Professional Education Institute - Family Engagement in Education: Creating Effective Home and School Partnerships for Student Success, July 2024
- National Association of Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
- Scholastic Workshop Series for district/school teams

Thank You!

