Quality Indicator 4: Meaningful Student, Family and Community Engagement/Partnerships

“Meaningful Student, Family, and Community Engagement/Partnerships” happen when the school staff makes sure that students, families and the community are partners in creating quality learning experiences for all students and a “full-service” school for the community. A quality school draws on the strengths and knowledge of the students, their families, and the community to become a center of support to the community and to meet the needs of all its members. Students, families, and community groups are “at the table”—giving voice to their concerns and perspectives, looking at data, planning, monitoring, evaluating the quality of the school, and participating in key decisions.

1. A quality school builds relationships and partnerships among school staff, students, their families, and community resources, based upon the school and community vision/goals, needs, assets, safety and local context. (FSCS.3; YE06, YE07)

2. A quality school shares decision-making with its students, their families, and the community, as part of working together in partnership. (CE1.25; YE04)

3. A quality school equitably allocates resources to achieve higher and more equal outcomes, by tailoring the specific approach and mix of services to its diverse communities1, according to the inequities identified by these communities and the school and according to the regular evaluation of its academic and support services. (FSCS.5; CE1.46)

4. A quality school partners with students by listening to their perspectives and priorities, acting on their recommendations for change in the classroom and school, and by providing opportunities for student leadership in the classroom, school, and community. (adapted from SEA Task Force; YE11)

5. A quality school works with students, their families, and the community, so they know well how the student is progressing and participating in the life of the school. The school uses strategies that help these groups overcome the language, cultural, economic, and physical barriers that can frustrate their full participation. (adapted from 5.200; YE09)

6. A quality school provides opportunities for families to understand what their child is learning; why they’re learning it; what it looks like to know, perform, and interact “well” (i.e. with quality); and what potential career/college pathways are before them. (adapted from CE1.55)

7. A quality school builds effective student, family, & community partnerships by implementing standards of meaningful student and family/community engagement, which are developed and approved by these local key stakeholders. (CE2.1)

1 By diverse communities we mean diversity of ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, and income level.