

Centering Voices

Video Transcript

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Analiah Bahena

Why do you think it is important to you that your family and your community school work together? I think this is important because, personally, it makes me feel more successful in what I'm doing. [W]hether that's school, sports, or just having a good relationship with somebody, it motivates me. They motivate me to be the better person that I am. When they, whenever they come together. . . For example, school academics. I always. . . I'm not the best at handling it myself. So I'm always kind of relying on my friends, my community, my family to make me feel more supported in what I'm doing. And at the end of the day, I feel successful because of the things that they tell me, the things that they say. And most importantly, they both respect me in a way. And they both help me realize that I really have people that I can count on. And I think this is very important for somebody [to] have because it makes them feel like something in this world.

Cynthia Segura

Spanish: Siento que teniendo buena comunicación con la maestra y con la escuela es la mejor forma de apoyar el aprendizaje de mi hija.

English: I feel that having good communication with the teacher and the school is the best way to support my daughter's learning.

Rodrigo Carapia

Spanish: En las escuelas me involucro haciendo talleres de arte de diferentes formas. También pintando murales. Todos estos proyectos son trabajando mayormente con estudiantes multilingües. Considero que son proyectos que ayudan a fortalecer programas que benefician a los estudiantes multilingües y, sí, esa es la forma en que me conecto con las escuelas.

English: In schools I get involved doing different kinds of art workshops. Also, painting murals. All these projects are mainly working with multilingual students. I believe these are projects that help strengthen programs that benefit multilingual students, and yes, that's how I connect with schools.

Eduardo Pérez

Spanish: Es este hacerlo[s] sentir que [los padres de familia] son bienvenidos, hacerlos sentir que son bien recibidos. Y, a veces, no quiero sonar como . . . simplificarlo demasiado, pero me parece que el simplemente hecho de sonreír y de hacerle[s] saber que estás contento de trabajar en donde estás trabajando puede ser una manera tan sencilla de hacerlos sentir bienvenidos. Y, de allí, podemos hablar de interesarnos por las cosas, [las] tradiciones culturales, las celebraciones que a ellos les interesa[n], saber dónde trabajan, tal vez, y elevar el conocimiento de experiencia que ya tienen. En vez de verlo como un déficit, poder ver que nos aportan todas sus experiencias, incluso aquellas que no son de nuestra región. ¿Qué aprendiste en otro lugar que es importante para nosotros? Y queremos aprender de ti. Y hacerles saber que lo que ellos saben, lo que han vivido y lo que conocen es importante para que nosotros todos también podamos compartir lo que sabemos.

English: It is this—making [parents] feel that they are welcome, make them feel that they are well received. And sometimes, I don't want to sound like. . . to simplify it too much, but it seems to me that simply smiling and letting them know that you are happy to work where you are working can be such a simple way to make them feel welcome. And from there, we can talk about being interested in things, [the] cultural traditions, the celebrations that they are interested in, knowing where they work maybe, and elevate the experiential knowledge they already have. Instead of seeing it as a deficit, to be able to see that they are bringing us all their experiences, even those that are not from our region. What did you learn somewhere else that is important for us? And we want to learn from you. And let them know that what they know, what they have lived and what they have experienced is important so that we can all also share what we know.

Laura López

Spanish: Me ha ayudado [el grupo de juego] a conectarme con papás que están en la misma situación y ver que mi situación. . . No estoy sola en esto. Entonces, hay más papás que pasan por lo que yo estoy pasando, y me ayudan con consejos porque mi hijo está en una edad, pero los de ellos están en otra edad. Y me dicen: "Puede pasar esto, puede pasar, a la mejor sí, a la mejor no", pero es bastante ayuda porque tú sabes qué esperar para el futuro con tus hijos.

English: It [the playgroup] has helped me connect with parents who are in the same situation, and see that my situation. . . I'm not alone in this. So, there are more parents who go through what I'm going through, and they give me advice because my son is at one age, but theirs are at a different age. And they tell me, "This might happen, maybe it will, maybe it won't," but it's quite helpful because you know what to expect in the future with your children.

Sherri Rachford

We, our playgroups, allow for families to bond and to build relationships, relationships with each other. We've had a few families that have really bonded. They do things outside of school together. They go on vacations with their family together. They actually ended up working in our school system. So, we're just kinda. . .

Angelica Nicola

So, yeah, it's a place to network, to find people that have little ones around your [child's] age, and take it out of play groups, take it into the neighborhood, take it into your home.

Ohla Volk

I'm still getting [to] know other families since we [have] only been here for two years, and as a family, we are adjusting to a new culture and language. While we haven't had much interaction yet, we're geared to make those connections and would appreciate any opportunity to meet other parents and families in the school community.

Madison Leech

That's what community looks like beyond the classroom. It's shared power, it's honoring identity, and it's building a school that mirrors the brilliance of the community that it serves.