

# Advocacy: Families and Educators Advocating at School Video Transcript

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My name is Maggie Karr, and, um, I am a family advocate here at Crawford Elementary. So oral tradition is an intergenerational storytelling project where families get to tell their story to their children. And, um, also as a school community, we get to learn those stories, um, by reading them, and so that we get to know their background a little bit better. Um, it just give a, give us a, a better, you know, understanding of their family life and how to work with them in a better way. And, uh, usually students would interview their parents in these classes and, uh, parents would get to tell their stories. And we're doing all of these verbally because a lot of times family don't really know how to write. And so that just kind of helped with, you know, uh, just telling the stories.

For students, they just love the idea of having their stories, you know, um, other people reading their stories, they, they would literally jump up and down in the hall. They'll be like, oh, that's my family, that's my family, you know, um, seeing their family involvement in the school community. And, um, for parents, it's just a nice opportunity for them to share their stories to, um, see those modeling, you know, from other families, how to interact with their kids or what questions to ask their kids and learning the dreams of, you know, their children. And, um, it, it just really beautiful to see that.

And for teachers just learning, you know, all, all of these backgrounds of their students help them a lot. They are a part of, um, parent leadership team. You know, it just give them a sense of power and being involved in their kids' school and get to make those changes or get to tell the stories. It just give them a lot of like, um, voice, too. Uh, like parent voice. We meet with parents from, uh, different language group. We look through the datas around attendance or, you know, uh, different, like various data actually. And then we would look through those and we would see, okay, if there's a problem, you know, if the number's really low on one side, is that a problem that parents can tackle and help with? For example, um, when the Spanish English Parents and Action Group saw that traffic was really horrible around here, and that was a problem, what they did was they assigned parents to come over here for like a whole year to, you know, um, just hang up, uh, to hold the stop signs during drop-off time and pick-up time. So that was all done by parent volunteering.