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this on YouTube today!

We should be **starting in
a few minutes!**

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Washington Office of Superintendent of
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Graduation Equity Webinar Series

Family Engagement Best Practices



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A background image showing a group of young children in a classroom. A girl in the foreground, wearing a yellow shirt, has her hands raised high in the air. Other children are visible in the background, also with hands raised, suggesting an active learning environment.

Vision

All students prepared for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement.

Mission

Transform K–12 education to a system that is centered on closing opportunity gaps and is characterized by high expectations for all students and educators. We achieve this by developing equity-based policies and supports that empower educators, families, and communities.

Values

- Ensuring Equity
- Collaboration and Service
- Achieving Excellence through Continuous Improvement
- Focus on the Whole Child



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Equity Statement

Each student, family, and community possesses strengths and cultural knowledge that benefits their peers, educators, and schools.

Ensuring educational equity:

- Goes beyond equality; it requires education leaders to examine the ways current policies and practices result in disparate outcomes for our students of color, students living in poverty, students receiving special education and English Learner services, students who identify as LGBTQ+, and highly mobile student populations.
- Requires education leaders to develop an understanding of historical contexts; engage students, families, and community representatives as partners in decision-making; and actively dismantle systemic barriers, replacing them with policies and practices that ensure all students have access to the instruction and support they need to succeed in our schools.



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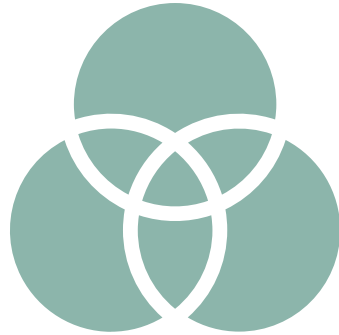
Ancestral Lands
Share your location
in the Chat

**Squaxin, Cowlitz, Coast Salish, and
Nisqually**

Equity Pause



Who will my decision
affect?



What is my locus of
control?



Which actions will
have the largest
impact?



What's a step I can
take right away?



Objectives

- Identify whether you have a culturally responsive family partnership **process**.
- Identify whether that process is developed with and honors **family voice**.
- Improve student outcomes by establishing **culturally responsive** family partnerships.
- Determine ways to **measure success** in connection with your family partnership process.



Presenters



Kefi Andersen

System Improvement Program
Supervisor & Team Lead

OSPI

kefi.andersen@k12.wa.us



Francesca Matias

Youth Engagement Administrative
Program Supervisor

OSPI

francesca.matias@k12.wa.us



Dr. Trise Moore

President & Senior Consultant
The Family Outreach & Engagement
Network

[trise@familyoutreachandengagement.c
om](mailto:trise@familyoutreachandengagement.com)



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Questions & Polling 1



Who's here?

- Administrator
- Counselor/
Counselor/Psych/Community
Liaison/Attendance Liaison / Grad
Specialist/ Social Worker
- Teacher
- Para-educator
- Parent/Community
Member/Community Based
Organization
- District Office/ESD Staff/OSPI
- Continuous Improvement Partner or
Teaching Coach
- Other

What grade band do you work with the most?

- Elementary
- Secondary
- Both
- None/NA
- Other

How familiar are you with our topic?

- Very
- Somewhat
- It's new!





Family Engagement at OSPI

“This cornerstone of
real family
engagement is a
belief in the power of
families engaged in
the learning lives of
their children.”

-Steven M. Constantino
*101 Ways to Create Real Family
Engagement*



Fast 5 of Family Engagement

Partnering with families & communities promotes learning.

Engaging families & communities is ongoing work that needs to be nurtured, monitored and measured.

Information about the effectiveness of family & community engagement can be found in student data systems, survey results and conversations.

Trust is foundational to family & community engagement efforts..Believing in the value of the relationship and offering time and space for authentic connections.

Engagement can look different for each family and in every community and defining it in partnership with families is a foundational step in genuine connection.



Policy Foundation

Workgroup Formed

- The 2020 Legislature directed OSPI and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to convene a workgroup to identify a family engagement framework for early learning through high school.

Practice Review

- The workgroup reviewed family engagement policies and practices in Washington and in other states, with a focus on identifying best practices that can be adopted throughout Washington.

Membership

- The workgroup includes family members with a variety of experiences and perspectives from around the state as well as appointed representatives.

Reporting

- By July 2021, the workgroup reported its findings & recommendations to the Legislature.



Values Underpinning Family & Community Engagement

Shared power & responsibility includes building the capacity of educators and families to **co-design** instruction and supports for each student. Families are recognized as experts in their children's education, with families and educators using **two-way communication and listening**.

Relationships are the cornerstone of family engagement, built on trust, communication, and recognizing the **value** of all families and students.

All families have **strengths**, and they are the first and best **advocates** and teachers for their children.

Family engagement promotes **equity** and success for all families, achieving equitable outcomes by recognizing the diversity of family types, by using a multi-generational lens, and through cultural and linguistic competency and responsiveness.



Definition

Family & community engagement is a full and equitable partnership among families, educators, providers, and communities

To support learners' development from birth through college and career

It is a collective responsibility that means doing with—not doing for—families



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[Family Engagement Framework 2021 Report](#)

Washington Integrated Student Supports Protocol: Characteristics of Successful Integrated Students Supports Implementation



Collaboration: The school partners with families and community organizations to develop and realize a shared vision for student success



Student Centered & Family Driven: Students are at the center of all decisions related to the plan for their support.



Students are engaged as **co-constructors** of solutions to the challenges they face.



Families have a primary **decision-making role** in the care of their children.



School staff acknowledge that **families can be both full partners** working to ensure their student's success and, at the same time, periodically in **need of support** from the school to create a more stable home learning environment for their student.





Why Focus on Family Engagement? Key Questions to Consider

Develop A Culturally Responsive Family Partnership Process to Improve Student Outcomes



Overview of Session Objectives

1

We'll identify examples of student outcomes that can be improved through the culturally responsive family partnership process.

2

We'll review the process aligned with **5 Authentic Leadership Practices** and **4 Equity Partnership Recommendations**

3

We'll discuss specific ways to apply the process to support improvements in student outcomes within your local context.



The Culturally Responsive Family Partnership Process

What It Is & Isn't

*Is

An opportunity for staff and families to collectively:

- Build trust
- Balance expectations
- Share responsibility
- Improve student outcomes

Isn't

A requirement for staff to:

- Add more events and activities
- Do more paperwork
- Undo what's already working
- Develop more plans or policies



*The Culturally Responsive Family Partnership process is an approach to help educators, family liaisons, families and community partners advance culturally responsive collaborative connections, in a way that supports student success year-round





The Process...

Collaborate...

with a diverse group of families during virtual and or in person connections (*small group or one-on-one, during or before pre-scheduled events or meetings*)

Collectively make meaning...

focused on insights you glean from families as you ask questions linked to the
5 Authentic Leadership Practices

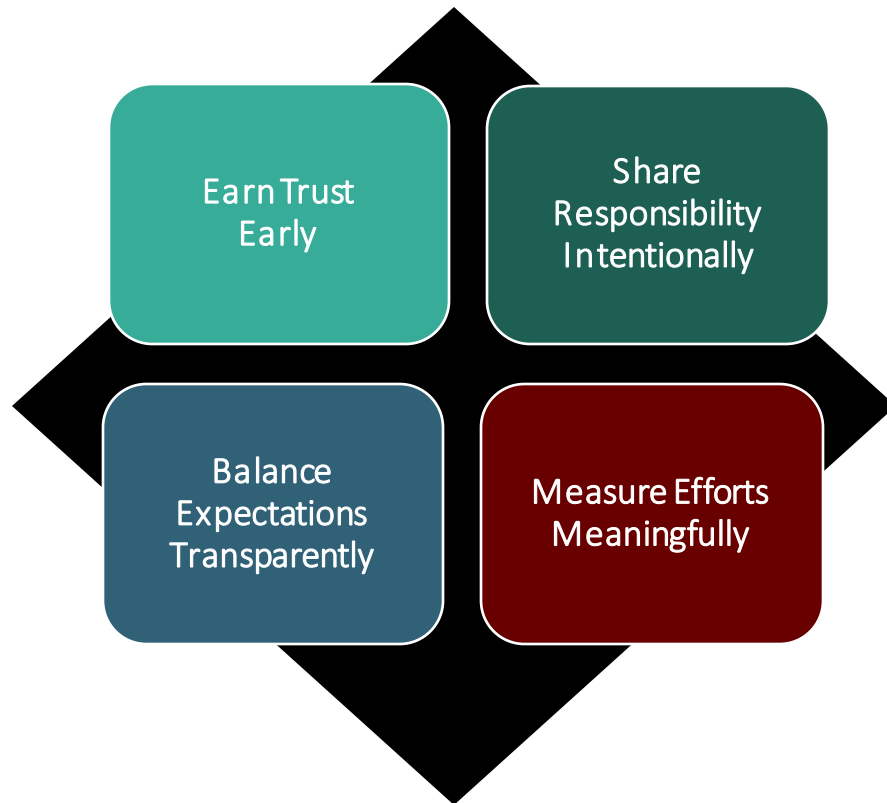
Intentionally apply family insights...

in ways that help you address the
4 Equity Partnership Recommendations

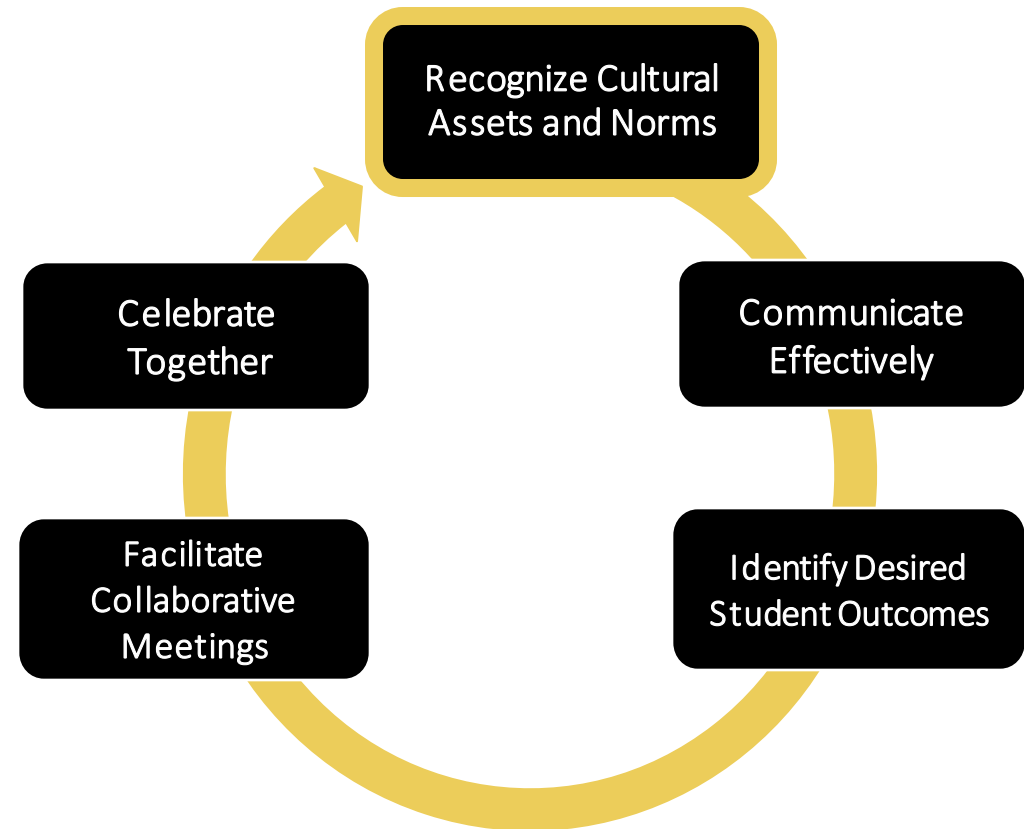


Review These Process Concepts

4 Equity Partnership Recommendations



5 Authentic Leadership Practices



A blurred background image of a classroom. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt, is seen from the back, looking towards a table. At the table, several children are sitting. One child in a red shirt is visible on the right, and another child is partially visible on the left. The table is covered with a blue cloth and has various items on it, including a blue bowl, a red apple, a yellow pineapple, and some colorful objects. In the background, there are whiteboards and colorful decorations on the wall.

1

We'll identify examples of student outcomes that can be improved through the culturally responsive family partnership process.

1

Share in the chat:

What are the student focused outcomes you want to accomplish as a result of your partnership efforts with families?

Examples...

- Increase percentage of students attending school
- Increase time students spend studying or practicing concepts/lessons
- Increase percentage of assignments completed and turned in on time
- Other_____

...so that student grades, graduation rates and academic achievement levels improve



A background image showing two men in a server room. They are looking at a computer monitor that displays a colorful, abstract graphic. The man on the left is pointing at the screen, and the man on the right is smiling. The room is filled with server racks and other equipment.

1

Share Your Insights



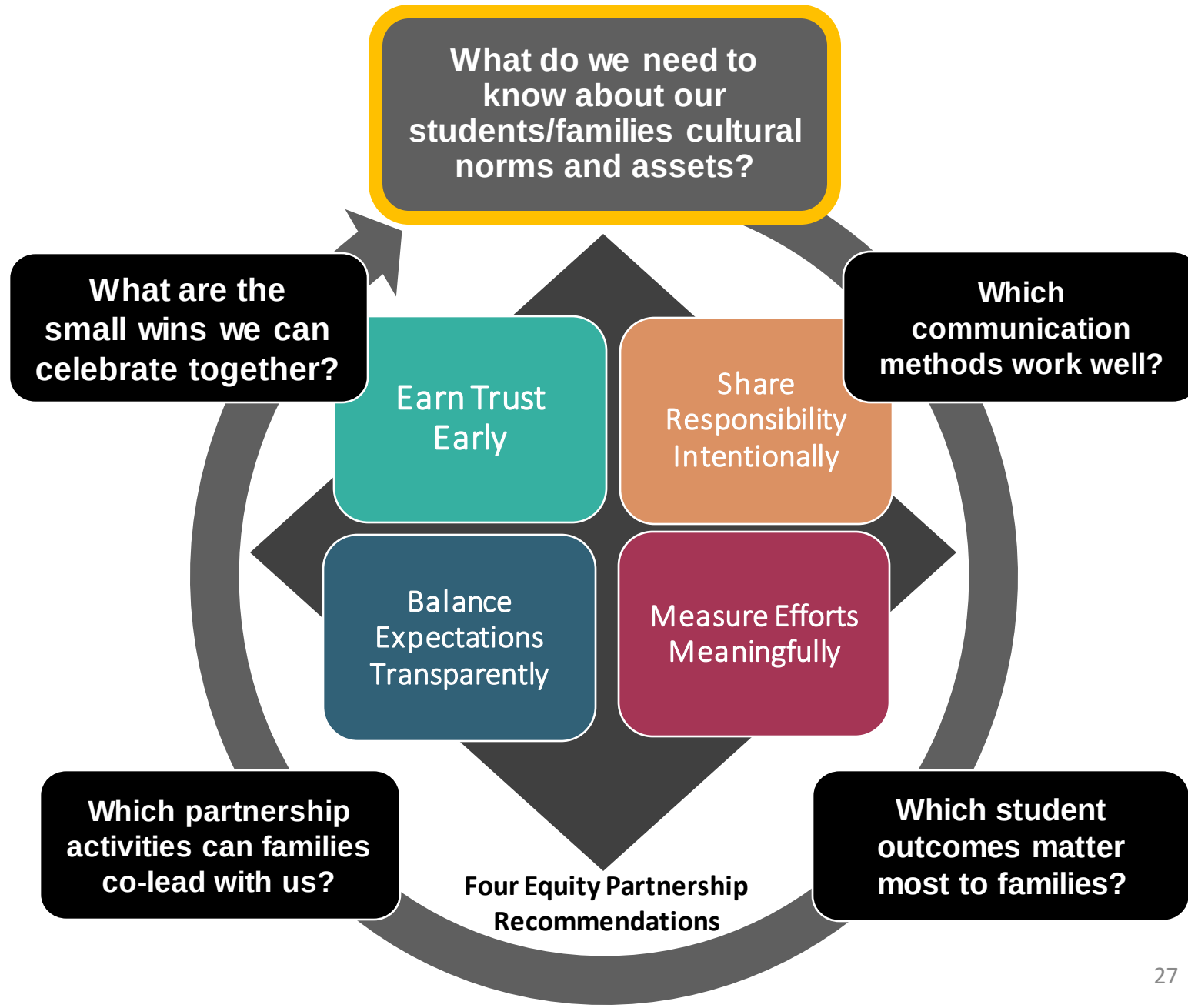


Apply the Process...

Collaborate with families to glean their insights and co-create meaning around the 5 Authentic Leadership Practices

Incorporate what you learn to help you address the 4 Equity Partnership Recommendations Year-Round

The Five Authentic Leadership Practices



2

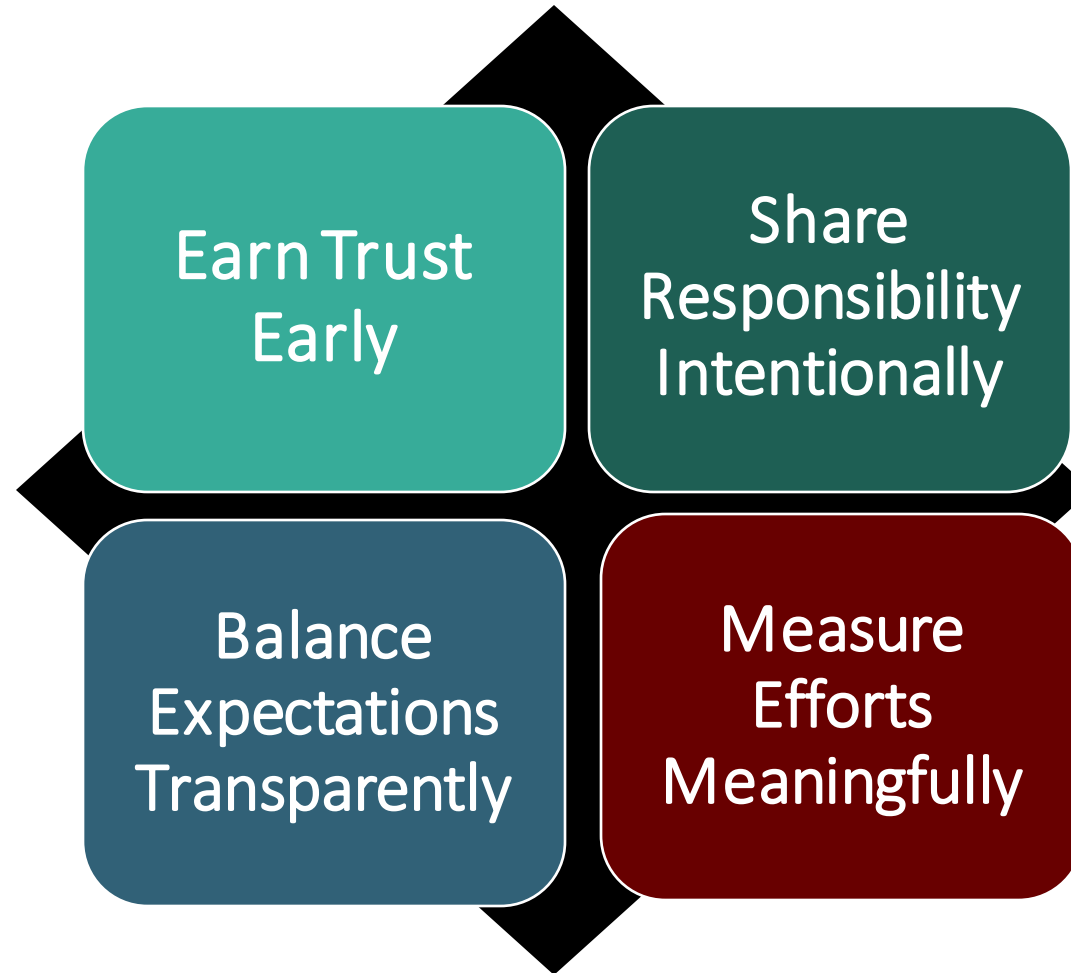
4 Equity Partnership Recommendations

Use these recommendations to build the foundational aspects of your family partnership process

4 Equity Partnership Recommendations



Implement Your Culturally Responsive Practices in Alignment with the 4 Equity Partnership Recommendations



The 4 Equity Partnership
Recommendations

Think About How You Apply These Ideas

We are consistent and clear about how our team earns trust with families early and throughout the year with a focus on listening and learning.

**Earn Trust
Early**

**Share
Responsibility
Intentionally**

We understand that every family has their own perspective on the meaning of shared responsibility. We are intentional about learning their perspective on shared responsibility.

We send messages (in family's preferred communication mode) about our interest in developing culturally responsive partnerships that support shared hopes and expectations for student success.

**Balance
Expectations
Transparently**

**Measure
Efforts
Meaningfully**

We know parents' views on what is worth measuring, may be different from what the school may choose to measure so we ask about and include their measures (hopes/dreams for their student) in our plans.

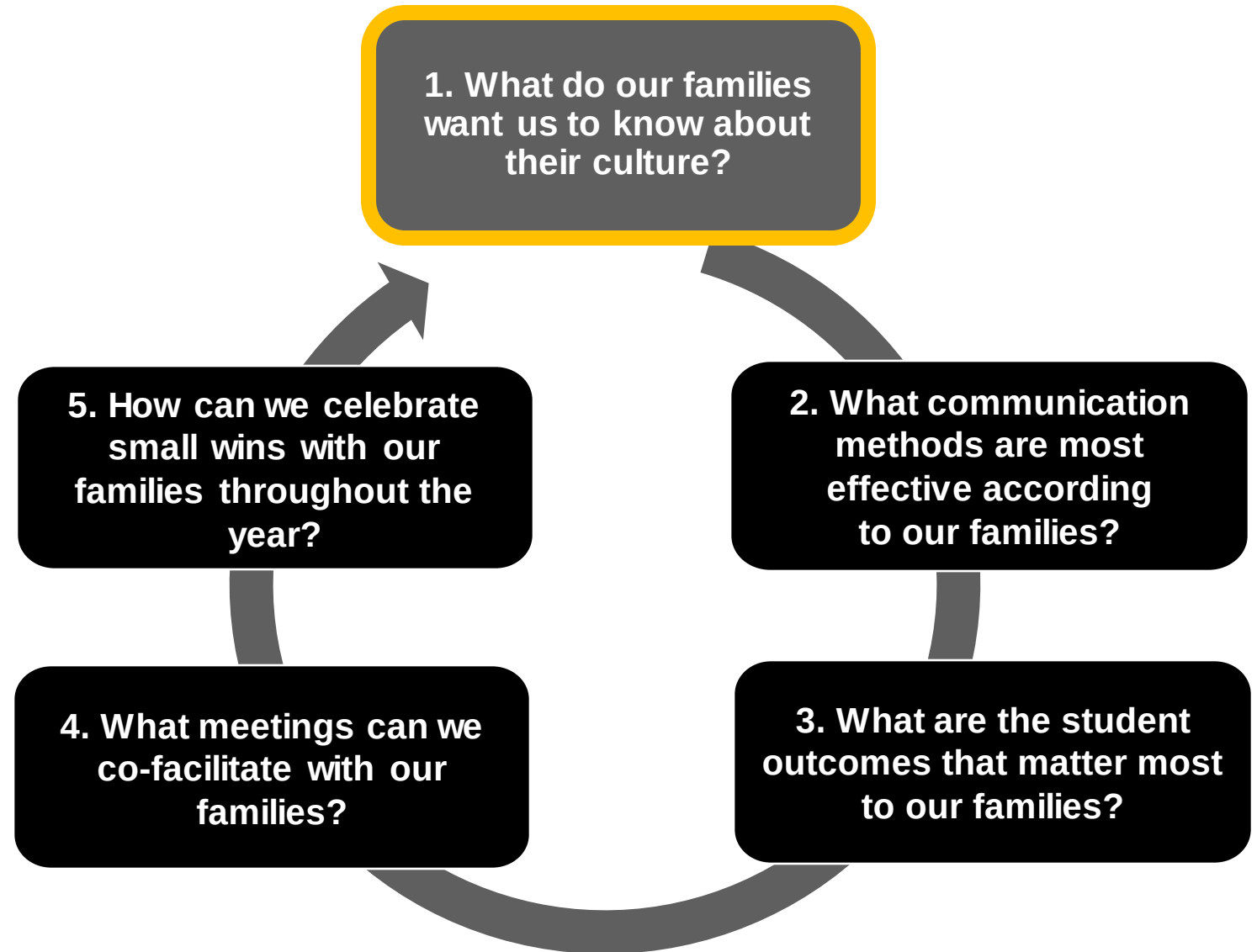


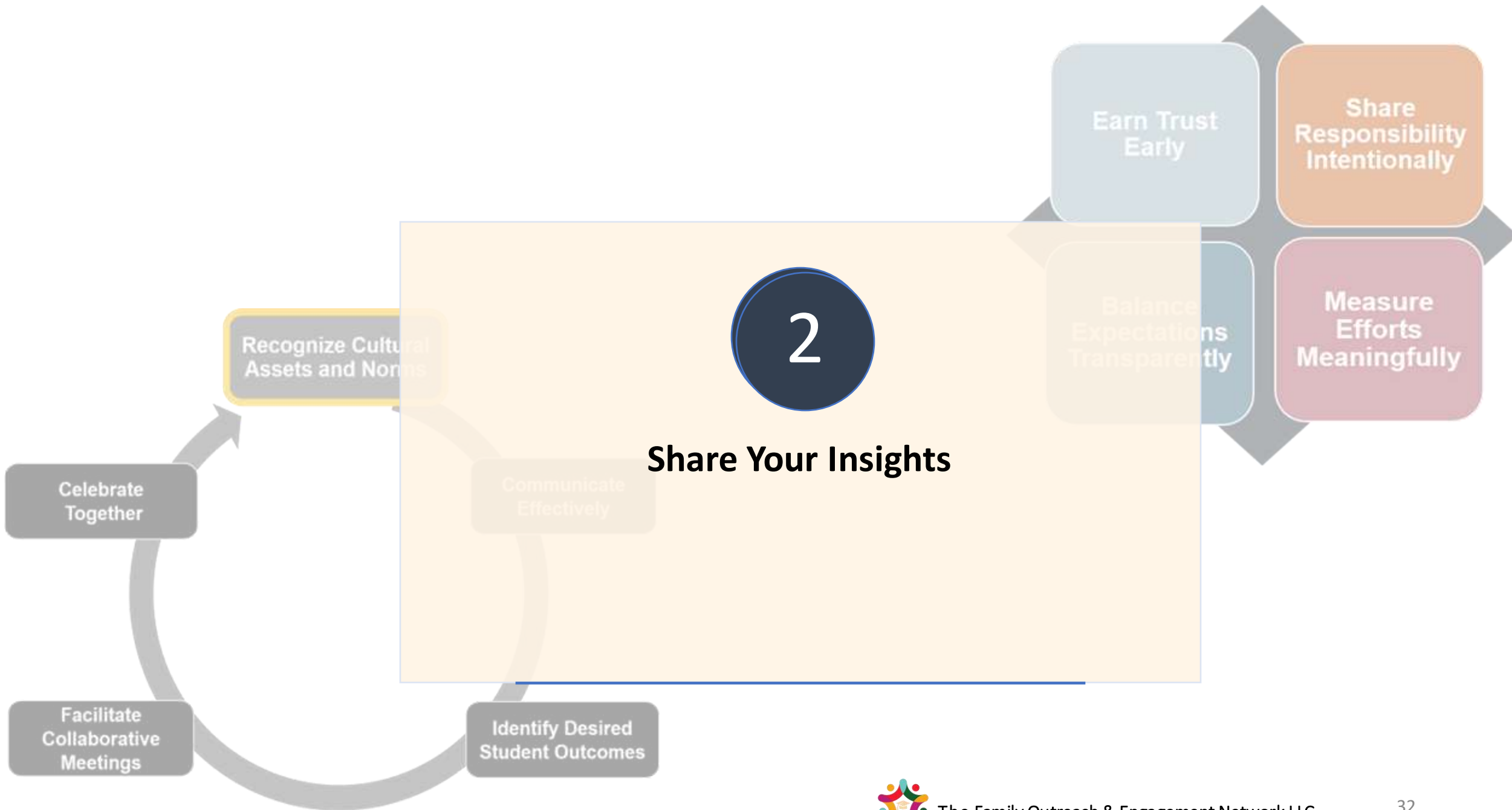
2

5 Authentic Leadership Practices

How can your students and families help you identify answers to these questions?

5 Authentic Leadership Practices







3

We'll discuss specific ways to apply the process to support improvements in student outcomes within your local context.



Consider These Specific Ideas

Make the effort to initiate positive connections with families early and as often as possible throughout the year to learn insights or share good news about their students (i.e., positive calls, texts, emails, video chats, post card notes)

Be clear and transparent when it comes to your interest in hearing and discussing helpful and feasible partnership ideas and expectations beyond typical teacher/parent conference meetings.



**Earn Trust
Early**

**Share
Responsibility
Intentionally**

**Balance
Expectations
Transparently**

**Measure
Efforts
Meaningfully**

Let families know what you are doing and will continuing doing to support their student's success and when appropriate give them opportunities to share how they have or would like to do the same.

Ask families to share the outcomes or hopes/dreams they would like to see their child experience and ways they want to partner to help their student make progress in those specific areas.

The Four Equity Partnership Recommendations

In what ways do you
(your team) already apply
these leadership concepts
in your family partnership
efforts?

**Ask About and
Recognize Cultural
Assets and Norms**

**Include families in
the celebration of
small wins
whenever possible**

**Communicate in
ways that align with
families preferred
modality**

**Facilitate Collaborative
Meetings that support
shared responsibility
& leadership**

**Connect with families to
exchange ideas about
ways to improve
student outcomes**

3

Examples of platforms
you can use to apply
the process with a focus
on specific student
outcome goals

Connect with families to share the student outcomes you want to improve and collaborate to identify focused partnership ideas during your quarterly or monthly-

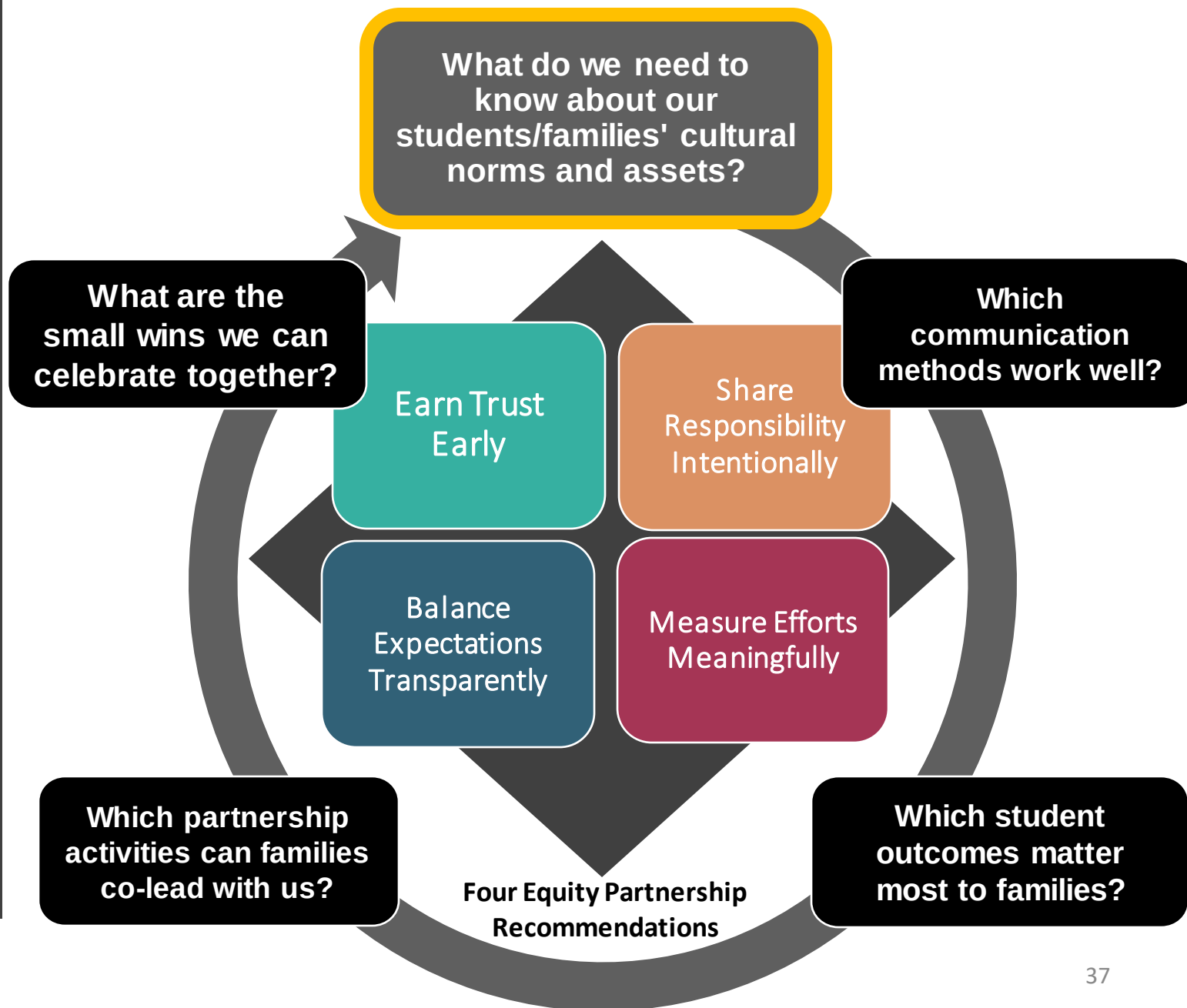
- ☐ Multicultural panels/Q&A gatherings
- ☐ Parent Leadership/Cultural Advisory groups
- ☐ Virtual meetings co-led with parents
- ☐ Neighborhood Visits
- ☐ Other _____



Focus on One Specific Student Outcome Goal

Build on what you already know about these concepts to improve student outcomes through culturally responsive family partnerships

The Five Authentic Leadership Practices





3

Share an idea focused on 1 specific way you can apply the process to improve student outcomes within your local context.





Repeat The Process...

Collaborate...

with a diverse group of families during virtual and or in person connections (*small group or one-on-one, during or before pre-scheduled events or meetings*)

Collectively make meaning...

focused on insights you glean from families as you ask questions linked to the
5 Authentic Leadership Practices

Intentionally apply family insights...

in ways that help you address the
4 Equity Partnership Recommendations



What Did We Cover?

1

We identified examples of student outcomes that can be improved through the culturally responsive family partnership process.

2

We reviewed the process aligned with the **5 Authentic Leadership practices** and **4 Equity Partnership Recommendations**

3

We discussed specific ways to apply the process to support improvements in the student outcomes within your local context.



Thank You

trise@familyoutreachandengagement.com





Q & A



What Does it Look Like in Real Life?

Practitioner Panel



Isaiah Johnson

Executive Director of Equity & Family Engagement
Auburn School District

ijohnson@auburn.wednet.edu



Lolita O'Donnell

Director of Family & Community Partnerships
Highline Public Schools

Lolita.ODonnell@highlineschools.org



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Considerations



Discuss
your ideas
with
leadership



Share
ideas with
your PLC



Lead a
discussion
with
students





Resources

Resources

Funding

- [Unlocking Federal & State Program Funds to Support Student Success](#)

Tools & Videos

- [Read & Subscribe](#) to the Engage Newsletter
- [Family Engagement Learning Webinar Series](#)
- [Street Data](#) by Shane Safir & Jamila Dugan et al

Websites

- [OSPI Family Engagement page](#)
- [Family Outreach & Engagement](#)
- [Dual Capacity Framework](#)
- [Highline Public Schools Family Engagement Page](#)
- [Institute for Educational Leadership Family Engagement Page](#)

People

- [Connect with OSPI staff](#)



Next Month

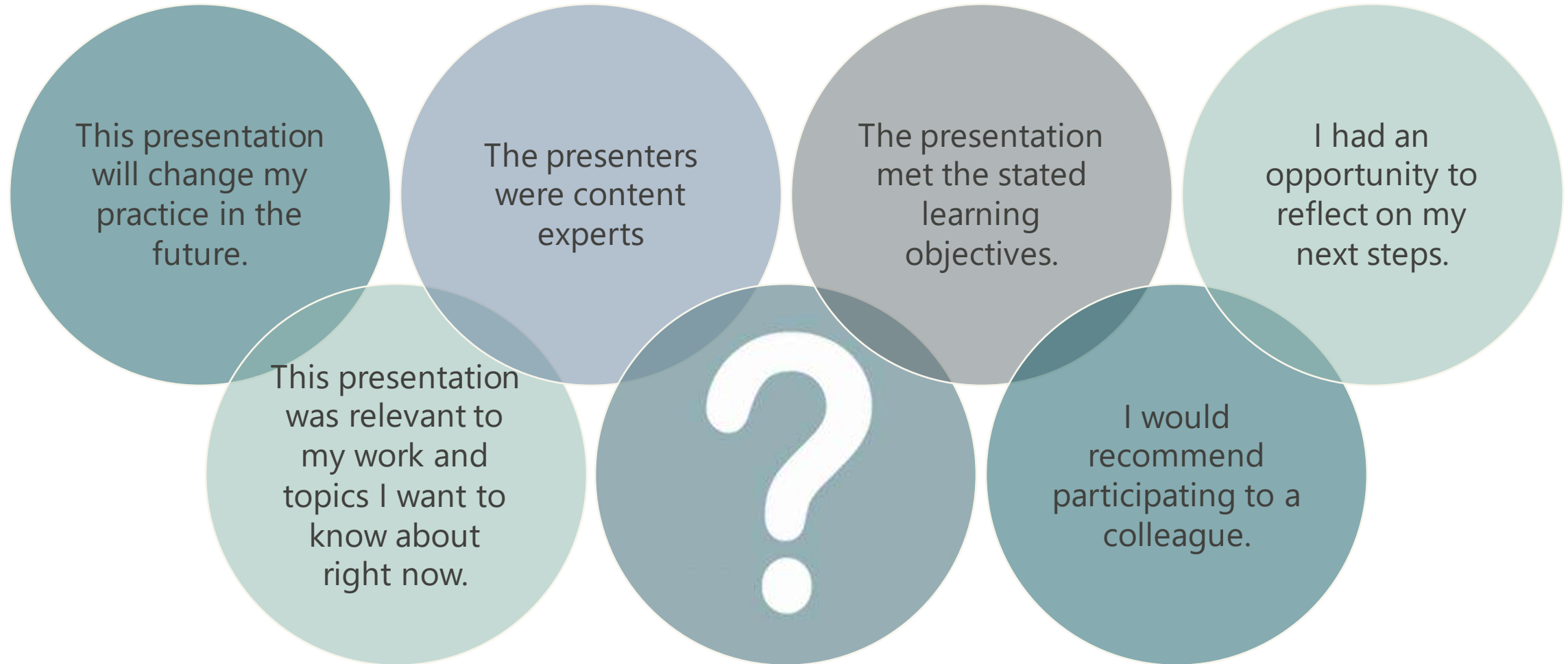
October 11

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

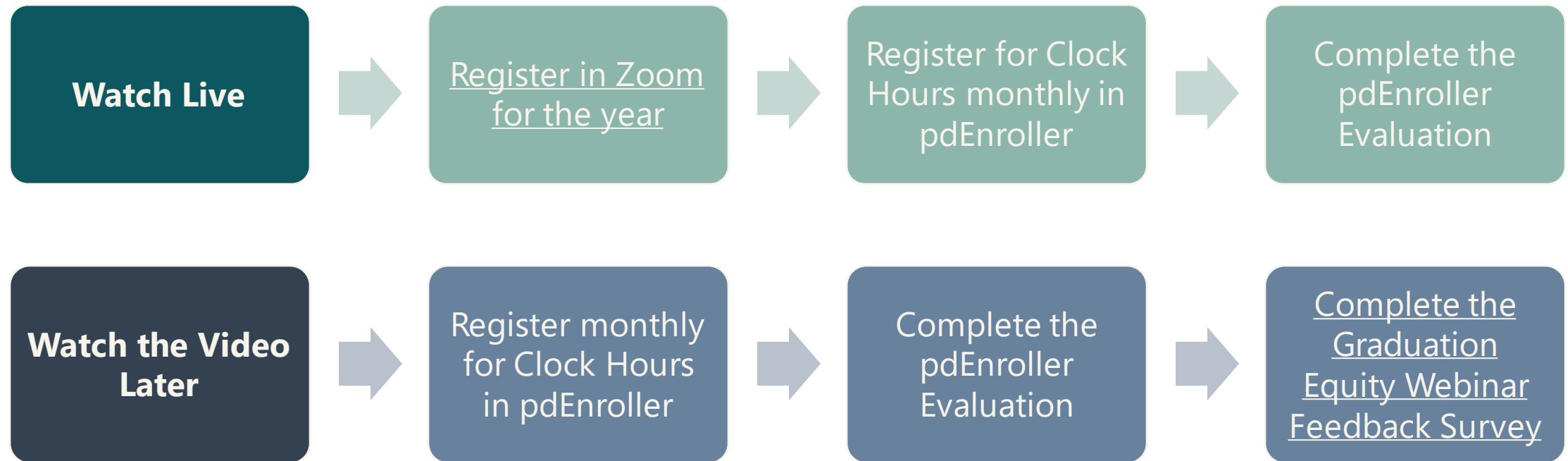
Restorative Practices



Evaluation



Do You Need Free Clock Hours?



Email Ronnie.Larson@k12.wa.us



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