

# Parent Advocacy for Excellent Schools



# Valued Family Leadership

- All families are valuable
- Valuing vs. deficit
- Four dimensions of leadership:
  - ☞ parent as teacher
  - ☞ parent as decision maker
  - ☞ parent as resource
  - ☞ parent as leader/trainer of others

# Goal

## Parents become active in having excellent schools for all children

- Assumptions : All families are valuable and can actively contribute to children's education.



# Training - 1st Year Topics

- Introduction to Leadership
- Building Support
- Peer Listening
- Projects
- Peer Support
- Needs Assessment



# Introduction to Leadership

- Validate parent contributions to their children
- Review four dimensions of engagement
- Establish communication process



# Peer Listening

- Experience and develop rationale for interviews
- Analyze key elements of effective communication
- Initiate project ideas



# Building Support

- Review interview process as means of communicating with parents
- Conduct a force-field analysis of parent involvement activities
- Examine projects as tools for increasing parent participation



# Ongoing Projects

- Review status quo of projects
- Report on interviews and outreach
- Plan next steps



# Peer Support



- Identify the forces assisting/ blocking leadership
- Establish parent peer-support groups
- Refine a plan of action for leadership development and peer support.

# Needs Assessment



- Documenting Family and Community Perceptions/Needs
- Recommendations and next steps

# Focus Group Interviews

- **Developing Parent Leadership**  
(parents as leaders and trainers of other parents):
  - Refining listening skills;
  - Developing facilitation skills; and
  - Building the network of parent leaders.

# Focus Group Process Benefits

- Parents are refining their leadership skills.
- The process is a tool:
  - for schools to create better linkages with parents
  - for learning about the issues that concern families in Texas; and
  - to inform and organize parents around education issues to have excellent schools.