GREAT
SCHOOLS
PARTNERSHIP

# Every Voice Matters:
## Leading for Equity and Personalization Through Equitable Community Engagement

**August 27, 2019**
**LEAP InnovatED Summit**

**Today's resources: greatschoolspartnership.org/LEAP**

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

-President Barack Obama

# TODAY'S PRESENTERS

**From the Great Schools Partnership**

Christina Horner, Senior Associate

Mark Kostin, Associate Director

**Today's resources: greatschoolspartnership.org/LEAP**

# Outcomes

Understand the connection between equity and community engagement.

Develop a deeper understanding and rationale for why community engagement needs to be centered in the life of a school-community.

Unpack and take action on key elements of community engagement.

**Today's resources: [greatschoolspartnership.org/LEAP](http://greatschoolspartnership.org/LEAP)**

# Agenda

Welcome + Overview

What is Equitable Community Engagement?

Why Equitable Community Engagement?

How to Create Equitable Community Engagement

Commitment and Next Steps

Debrief + Close

# GREAT SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

is a nonprofit school-support organization working to redesign public education and **improve learning for all students.**

**@GreatSchoolsP**

**We believe** in equitable, personalized, rigorous learning for all students leading to readiness for college, careers, and citizenship.

**We believe** educational equity means ensuring just outcomes for each student, raising marginalized voices, and challenging the imbalance of power and privilege.

# WELCOME

Raise your hand if you are a…

Other

# What is Your Experience with Community Engagement?

*Personal Reflection…*

How was your family connected or not connected to your school and educational experience?

How might these past experiences, positive or negative, shape your beliefs about community engagement

# What is Equitable Community Engagement?

# Equitable Community Engagement

an ongoing and **intentional** process of building **trusting relationships**, **sharing power**, and working **collaboratively** with all stakeholders toward educational equity

# TURN + TALK

How does your experience connect with our definition?

Where is there dissonance and why?

# Why Community Engagement?

# Why Community Engagement?

1. Equitable Outcomes

2. Lasting Impact

3. Innovative Solutions

4. Community Support

# Common Barriers

# BARRIER 1

Failure to recognize the structural inequities and unfairness in educational systems

# BARRIER 2

An unwillingness to change the traditional hierarchies of power and privilege in school systems and classrooms

# BARRIER 3

An inability to change the deeply entrenched patterns of negative, unproductive thinking and relating in school communities, especially among groups from different socioeconomic, cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds

# Moving Toward Equitable Community Engagement

# Engagement Spectrum
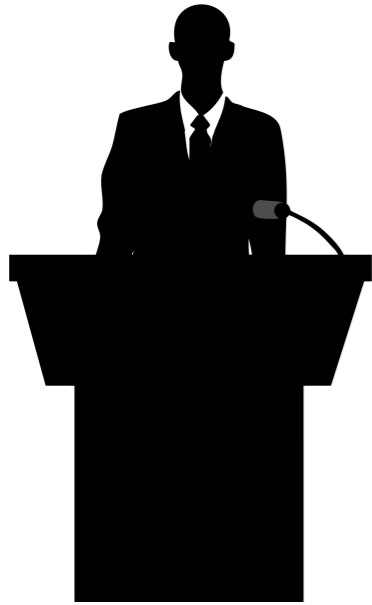
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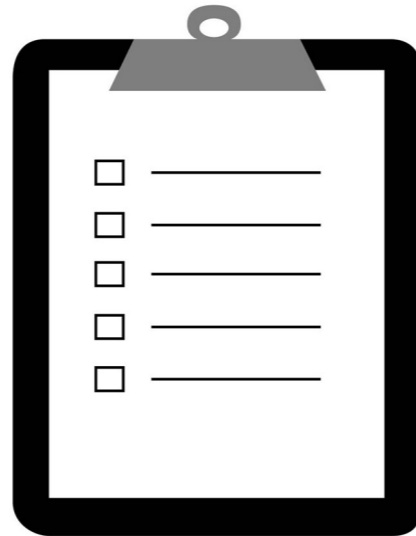
Encouraging Involvement

Sharing Power

**More** school directed

**Less** community involvement

**Less** school directed

**More** community involvement

# Moving Toward Equity

## Providing Information

Teachers and school administrators provide basic and expected information to students, families and other community members at regular intervals.

## Encouraging Involvement

In addition, educators actively seek feedback and input from students, families, and other community members.

## Sharing Power

In addition, use resources to engage equitably with all members of the community when making decisions that affect the community.

# Example: Budget

# Providing Information
## Participation is minimized and contained

- Budget priorities are determined solely by district staff.

- The district posts the approved budget on its website.
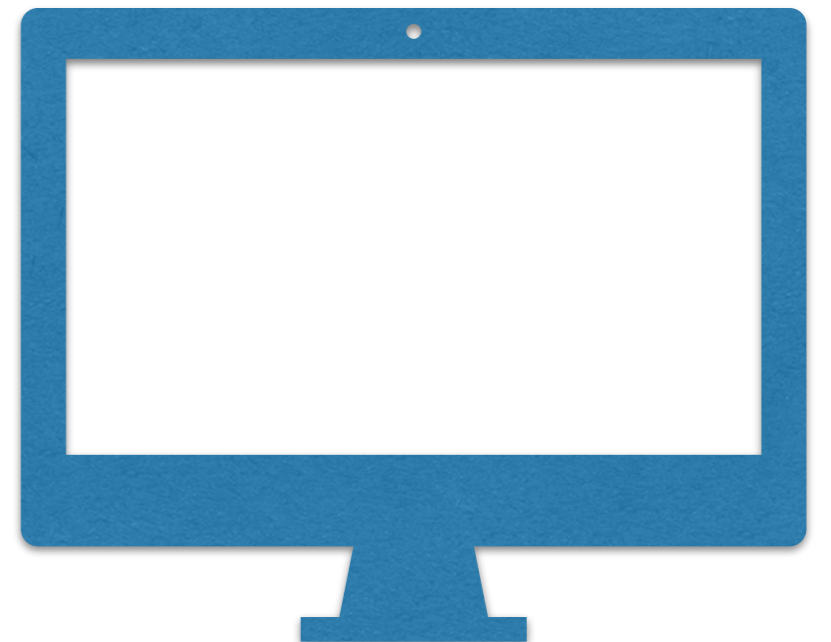
# Encouraging Involvement
## Participation is supported within established channels

- The superintendent encourages community members to attend public school board meetings about the budget.

- The district provides information about how and where to vote on the budget.

# Sharing Power
## Resources are dedicated to maximize participation and share ownership

- The school board sets aside funds for participatory budgeting.

- The district provides data about its students, staff, programs and finances to help inform the participatory budgeting process.

# You try it...

‣ Select an activity of interest.

‣ Think of the 3 domains.

‣ What would that activity look like in each domain?

# You try it…

1.  Open House, Curriculum Night, Back to School Night

2.  Parent Conferences

3.  Budgeting Process

4.  Current Topics Night (e.g. bullying, vaping, social media)

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# Brief Sharing

# Reflection and Next Steps

# Reflection and Commitment

Look back at your 'personal experience with CE.' What insights have you gained today regarding equitable community engagement?

What might you do differently, or more often when you return to your community?

# Resources

**The Foundations of Equitable Community Engagement**

Shifting Mindsets and Increasing Family Engagement

in New Bedford Public Schools

**The Case For Community Engagement**

**Community Engagement** — Moving Toward Equity

greatschoolspartnership.org

# QUESTIONS

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# THANK YOU

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# Photo Credit

Images on slides 7-8:

Courtesy of Allison Shelley/The Verbatim Agency for American Education: Images of Teachers and Students in Action.