

Changing Practices and Procedures to Improve Outreach and Increase Family Engagement

The chart below is designed to get you thinking about procedures and practices that are in place that, when slightly altered, could become more effective in promoting outreach and family engagement. The example of “the folder” is one of many examples that can be altered and enhanced. A few ideas are provided to stimulate your thinking.

	Original Procedure or Practice	Redesigned Procedure or Practice	What Will It Take to Redesign?
Example	Standard Homework	Interactive homework (homework that has a component for parent participation or understanding)	Change in how homework is constructed (no new time) Change in types of assignments (no new resources)
Example	Remediation	Home learning support	Design resources for both parents and students (no new resources, no new time). Share concepts of student learning with parents.
Example	PTA meetings	PTA meetings that promote family efficacy and learning	Each PTA meeting has a learning component for parents (no new time, no new money, no new resources).

Disengaged families do not immediately respond to outreach efforts. Remember, we still have to work on fear, trust, and relationships. But don't be discouraged – every effort is a step in the right direction!