

## 8 elements make effective family and community partnerships

**A**ccording to the National Network of Partnership Schools' *Special Report: Summary 2011 District Data* (Epstein & Ganss, 2012), the following eight elements are important for establishing effective partnership programs at the district and school levels. Use this tool to explore what types of professional learning can contribute to boosting your family and community partnership program.

### LEADERSHIP

What kind of professional learning can you plan for principals and district-level leaders to get everyone moving in the same direction (e.g., the framework of six types of involvement, possible partnerships, how to organize committees to distribute leadership, etc.)?

### TEAMWORK

What opportunities does your school have for shared leadership that involves teachers, parents, and administrators (e.g. creating a family and community engagement plan for the year that is linked to the school improvement plan)?

### WRITTEN PLANS

How can you encourage your school or district to include your family and community engagement plan within the school improvement plan in a way that demonstrates that families' actions are linked to teachers' goals?

### IMPLEMENTATION

What challenges does your school face in implementing your family and community engagement plan and how can you address these?

### EVALUATION

Do the evaluation methods for your engagement activities assess the quality of the program and teamwork?

### COLLEGIAL SUPPORT

How can you build support of colleagues in the school, district, and community for your engagement plan?

### ADEQUATE BUDGET

Who would be a key ally in ensuring your family and community engagement program has an adequate per-pupil budget? How can you best communicate the importance of properly funding these efforts?

### NETWORKING

How can you and other school leaders join or create networks to share best practices, tools, and measures?

Adapted from: **Epstein, J.L. & Ganss, J.M. (2012, February).** *Special report: Summary 2011 district data.* Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University National Network of Partnership Schools.