

**First 5 Family Resource Centers
Initiative & San Francisco Unified School
District Early Education Department's**

Family Innovation Hub Project



Spring 2021

**Lifting this from the pages of
recommendations to the work!**



Prepared by Latoya Pitcher of Family Equity Partners

Project Description:

San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) Early Education Department (EED) is collaborating with First 5 of San Francisco to partner with parents and caregivers of Black students enrolled at SFUSD early education sites. Family Equity Partners has been selected to bring a collective of education advocates including SFUSD employees, First 5 Employees, and Parents/Caregivers of Black EED students to host conversations with Black families on how they can best be served. In addition, a set of recommendations will be developed and presented to the First 5 Family Resource Center Initiative.

Goal

Develop a set of recommendations for the Family Resource Center Initiative to include Black families as thought partners in the implementation process and to uplift Black family voices for ongoing family partnership strategies.

Key Stakeholders

Meenoo Yashar, SFUSD EED, Chief

Ashley Blanco, SFUSD EED, Family Support Specialist

Theresa Zhigera, First 5 SF, Interim Executive Director

Shelli Rawlings-Fein, First 5 SF FRCI Family Support Program Officer

Dion-Jay Brookter, Young Community Developers (YCD), Executive Director

Latoya Pitcher, Family Equity Partners, Consultant

Objectives

- 1) Host community conversations with First 5 FRCI Employees and Leadership Team Members, SFUSD EED Employees and Leadership Team Members, and Parents and Caregivers of Black SFUSD EED students:
 - a. Exploring FRCI services' and activities' responsiveness to the Black community and how service models could be more responsive.
 - a. Exploring how to better build Family Resource Center outreach into the SFUSD EED programs.
- 2) Host community conversations with Parents and Caregivers of Black SFUSD EED students:
 - a. Exploring how Family Resource Centers can support parents/caregivers in kindergarten enrollment.
 - a. Exploring how can government partners and parent advisory groups can strengthen their partnerships with parents/caregivers.
- 3) Host a community conversation with First 5 FRCI Employees and Leadership Team Members, SFUSD EED Employees and Leadership Team Members, and Parents and Caregivers of Black SFUSD EED students to review recommendations for the FRCI and ongoing parent partnership strategies.

The Data Collection Process

Hub Conversation #1: Connecting March 10, 2021

- Connected with families of Black SFUSD EED students.
- Shared information about accessing First 5 FRCI & SFUSD EED supports and services.
- Listened to family needs from FRCI and SFUSD EED.

Hub Conversation #2: Enrollment May 12, 2021

- Explored ways in which First 5 FRCs and SFUSD EED can partner with Black SFUSD EED families to support black families.
- Explored communication strategies for First 5 FRCs and SFUSD EED to consider in partnering with and servicing Black SFUSD EED families.

Hub Conversation #3: Recommendations May 26, 2021

- Re-/Connected all key stakeholders in the work.
- Reviewed the draft recommendations based on the first 2 hubs data.
- Shared next steps.

Links to Raw Data

[Hub #1 Recordings](#)

[Hub #2 Recordings](#)

[Hub #3 Recordings](#)

The Recommendations

Provide a culturally appropriate academic roadmap + key points of contacts

- An education **roadmap** that outlines key processes in and successes in early education.




- Additional points of contact within sfusd that are knowledgeable, respectful points-of-contact at each phase of each process.

Offer Direct Support




- Education **Navigators**: knowledgeable, experienced professionals that will support Black families with choosing and enrolling in schools.
- Education **Advocates**: experts at advocating with and for Black students in SFUSD and their families.

Develop Authentic Partnerships



Communicate with Black families in a way that values and respects their culture and as key stakeholders in their child's education.



Build and promote intentional partnerships that offer Black students and their families tools for immediate and future academic success and their social and emotional development.



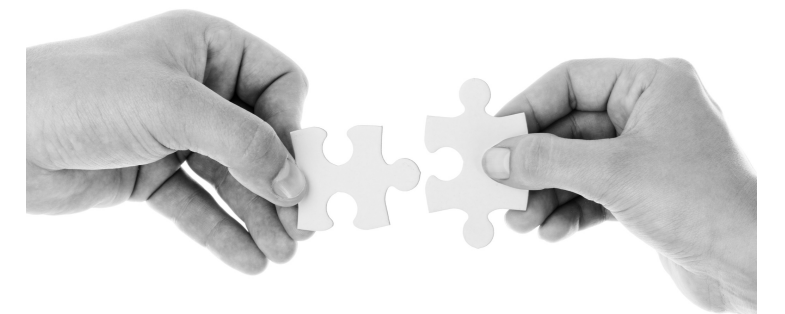
Facilitate spaces that visually celebrate Black culture and heritage and intentionally makes room for Black families.



Offer or encourage exploration of a **counter story** if others correlate low Black family engagement to low Black family value/ interest in education.

Additional Impactful Connections

- **Equitable Access** to resources - including technology or creating a reservation system for food pantries and offer free cooking classes with food pantry items.



- **Intentional + Impactful Connections** Cooking classes for food pantry visitors and intentional introductions (warm hand-offs) to resources.



NEXT STEPS



1

AUTHENTIC EVALUATIONS

Evaluate each family resource center office to identify opportunities to implement recommendations in the next 3 months.

2

ENGAGE FAMILIES

Follow-up in 3 months with families to share the status of the recommendations and their implementation. In addition gather additional family and community input to strengthen the implementation plan.

3

PROMOTE EQUITY IN EDUCATION ACCESS

Continue to support families as educational advocates with education planning and explore opportunities for each office to development relationships in the education community to best serve black students and support their families.

4

BE ACCOUNTABLE

Continue the commitment to serve all communities. Continue the transparent conversations with Black families. Continue to value them as experts of their children.

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