

# Module 1: **Creating a Welcoming Environment**

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## **Define: Welcoming Environment**

A welcoming classroom environment for family partnerships is one in which the \_\_\_\_\_ environment and \_\_\_\_\_ conditions set the tone for positive feelings, interactions, and \_\_\_\_\_ between family members and school staff.

## **Why is it Important to Create a Welcoming Environment?**

A welcoming environment:

- sets the tone for positive \_\_\_\_\_
- communicates \_\_\_\_\_ about the students and families served
- helps families feel \_\_\_\_\_ when visiting

## **How educators can help**

- Begin using the term \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_ due to the changing dynamics of caretakers (grandparents, aunts/uncles, friends, etc.)
- Focus on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than just \_\_\_\_\_
- Being \_\_\_\_\_ about the importance of establishing relationships with families
- Being \_\_\_\_\_ about your current efforts and CREATING A PLAN to strengthen the connection with families

## **Parent Involvement vs. Family Engagement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ activities in schools (back-to-school night, etc.) in which the same group of parents continually participates
- Equals \_\_\_\_\_ or a family member's role in the operation of a school or organization (PTO, etc.)
- Giving parents the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be an integral part of their child's learning PK-12
- Tying parents directly to a child's \_\_\_\_\_ performance — \_\_\_\_\_ in educating the child
- Not every parent needs us to help them be \_\_\_\_\_—focus on the ones who do!

## **4 Types of Schools/Classrooms**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## **Considerations of a welcoming classroom**

- Physical Attributes in Classroom
  - clean, organized, \_\_\_\_\_
  - signs/posters/bulletin boards reflect \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Personal Attributes of Teacher
  - personality
  - \_\_\_\_\_ contact
  - finding a balance between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - facial expressions



**Reflection Questions:** After participating in Module 1, Creating a Welcoming Environment, reflect personally on the following questions.

A. Which of the 4 types of schools best reflects the school you are teaching in? Why?

B. Which of the 4 types of schools best reflects your classroom? Why?

C. What are some actions that you can take to achieve a partnership school or partnership classroom?

D. What are your goals to improve the physical attributes in your classroom?

E. What are your goals to improve your own personal attributes as a teacher?