



Building Systems to Engage Families & Communities

Feb 2018

Objectives

- Build understanding over closed vs open school systems
- Understand best practice activities to create open school systems
- Utilize work time to consider how you could build open school systems in your community

Seek Common Ground

- A network of state-based advocacy coalitions across the United States working to improve the educational prospects for all children by mobilizing diverse voices to engage in respectful debate on how best to advance opportunities, enlisting support from across the political and civic spectrum, and shining a light on innovative and promising practices.

Introductions

- Born into a family of educators
 - Mom is a Principal
 - Sister taught for a decade and now works for SPLC
- Taught first grade on Navajo Nation
- Ran education non-profit across state of NM, focused on bringing teachers to rural communities
- Inspired to bridge community and schools
- Helped lead Denver Public Schools Office of Family Engagement
- Now works at A+ Colorado & Seek Common Ground
 - SCG: Working to support best practice engagement nationally
 - A+ : Working in Colorado to build advocacy coalitions to create change



What is an Open System?



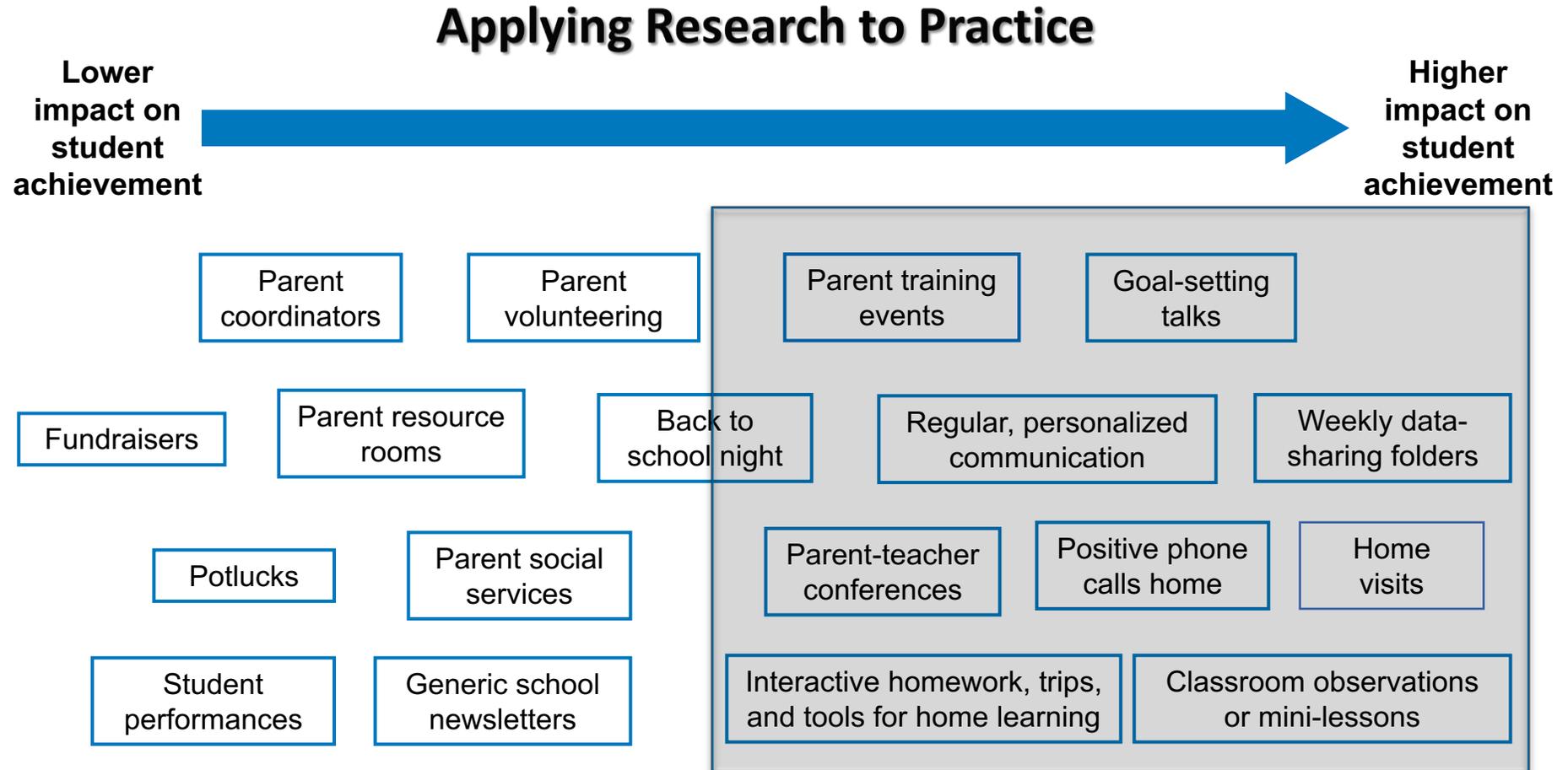
www.theopensystem.org

Open vs Closed

- Small group conversation
- On this scale, how would you rank your school or district:

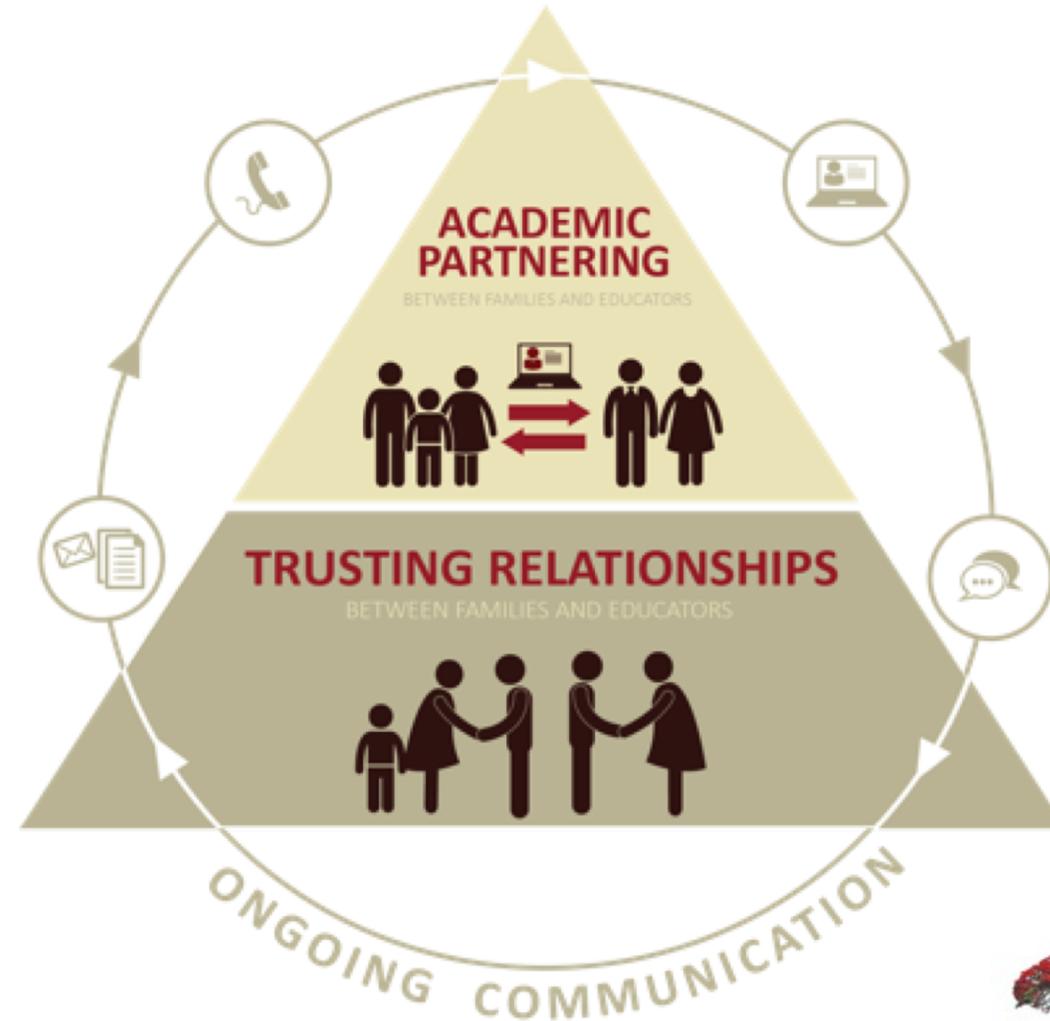


Academic Partnership – Best Practice

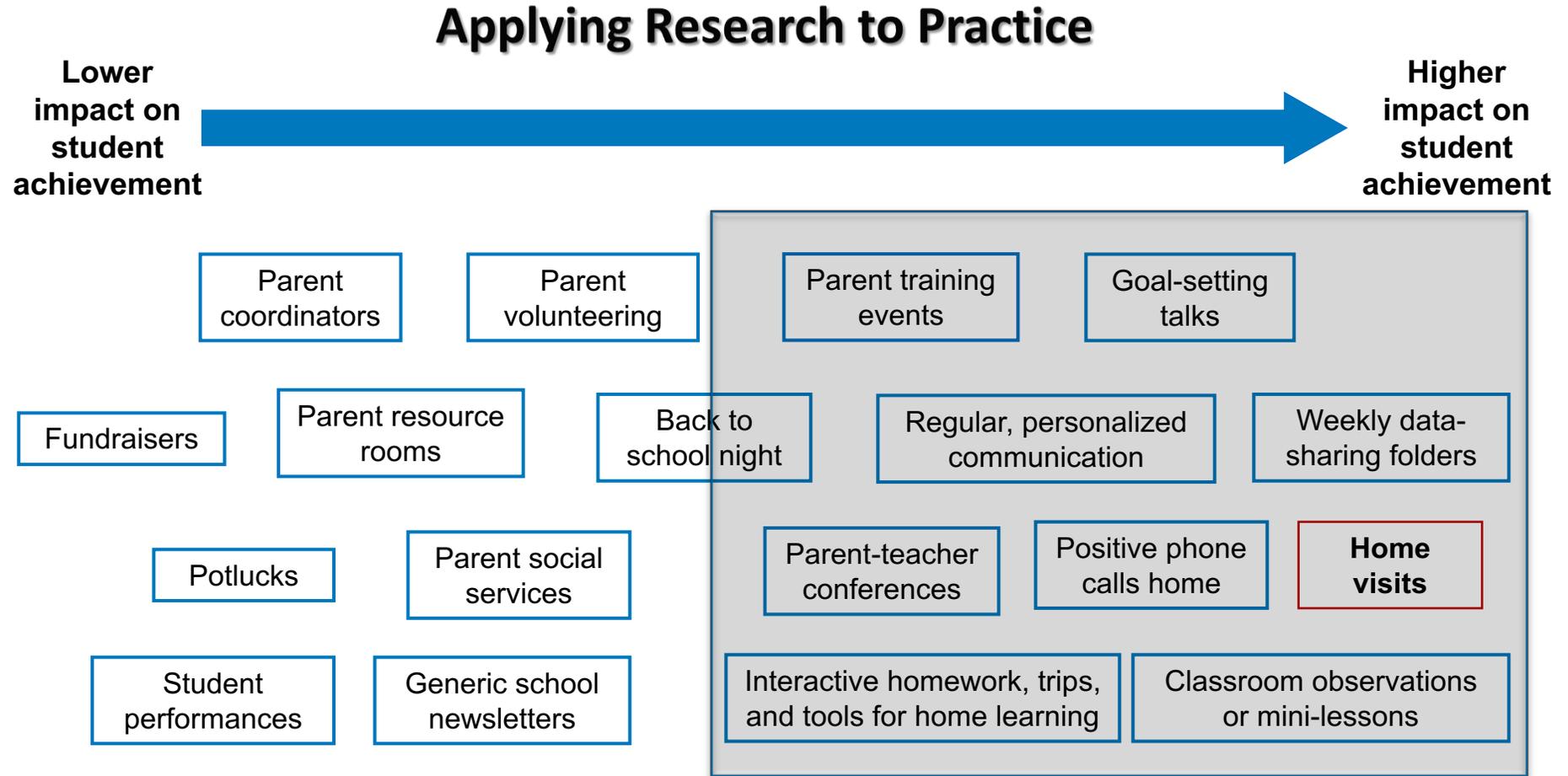


Source: Karen Mapp, Harvard University

Academic Partnership Requires Relationships



Academic Partnership – Deep Dive on Home Visits



Source: Karen Mapp, Harvard University

What is a home visit?

Home visits are meetings between school staff and families focused on *building positive relationships*. They are:

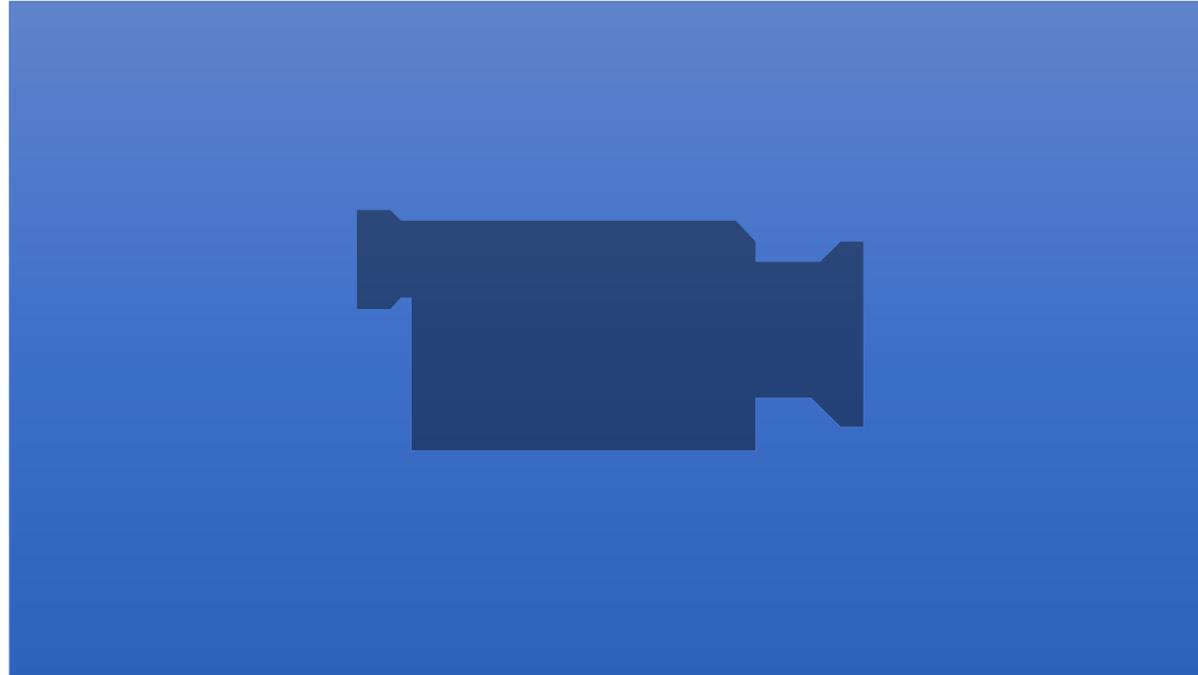
- 20-30 minutes long
- Voluntary for both staff and families



<http://pthvp.org>

- Hosted somewhere outside of school (home, park, library, etc.)
- Based around the question – what are your *hopes and dreams* for your child?

A Look At A Visit...



Research

- Johns Hopkins Research linked home visits to increased attendance, literacy gains
- RTI suggests home visits may also help interrupt implicit bias

How can systems interrupt bias?

- Implicit bias is about unconscious patterns that people and systems replicate about groups of people
- This pattern, called “groupism” can lead to systemic challenges and assumptions
- One of the ways to interrupt bias is to focus on getting to know people at the individual level
- Research shows home visits can create individual and person relationships that have the potential to interrupt these biases

Home Visits Build Open Systems

- Home Visits create opportunities to build partnerships and share power at the classroom level
- Home Visit campaigns create opportunity for a school or district to generate new energy around relationships, gain new perspectives
- Home Visits create new information cycles within systems that can inform better decision-making

Boasberg Joins Parent Teacher Home Visit Week



On Friday, Nov. 18, Superintendent Tom Boasberg joined Beach Court Elementary teacher Lauren Brown and paraprofessional Laura Huber as they visited the home of one of their ECE students during [Fall Parent Teacher Home Visit Week \(Nov. 14-21\)](#). During this week, DPS educators took the opportunity to build connections and relationships between their families and schools through personalized home visits.

An Opportunity for Illinois...

- National partnership with the Parent Teacher Home Visit project
- Opportunity for up to 200 participants trained
- Great opportunity to partner with districts, community organizations to build system capacity to engage families

Could Home Visits help your school or district become more Open?

- Share and discuss at the table about whether this opportunity could be good for your community
- What would be some concerns or unique opportunities?
- Prepare to share out to the entire group

Questions & Discussion

