Research Informed Definition of Family, School and Community Engagement in Support of Improved Family, School and Community Outcomes

(National Family and Community Engagement Working Group, 2009)
Family engagement is:

• **A shared responsibility:**
  – Schools and other community agencies and organizations are committed to engaging families in meaningful and culturally respectful ways, and families are committed to actively supporting their children’s learning and development.

• **Cradle to career:**
  – Continuous across a child’s life, spanning from early head start programs to college and career.

• **Across contexts:**
  – Carried out everywhere that children learn – at home, in pre-kindergarten programs, in school, in after-school programs, in faith-based institutions, and in community programs and activities.
Families as *Collaborative Agents of Change* in Service of Improved Outcomes for Students, Schools and Communities

Obligation to enable parents to play multiple roles:

- Supporters of Learning at Home, School and in the Community
- Decision-Makers
- Leaders
- Advocates
- Partners in Shared Accountability
Family Engagement: Reframing the Work

- Individual Responsibility → Shared Responsibility in Partnership
- Deficit-Based/Adversarial → Strength-Based and Collaborative
- Random Acts → Systemic
- Add-On → Integrated
- Events Driven → Learning and Outcomes Driven
- Compliance → Ownership and Continuous Improvement
- One-Time Project → Sustained