

## MOD 6.3 Listening and Communicating Effectively with Families



### TAKE IT DEEPER: Listening through Focus Groups

[Researchers](#) developed focus group questions to [explore PreK-12 parent, educator, and community member perspectives on family engagement](#) in order to inform state-level policy.

Review these focus group questions, primarily drawn from the study above.

- What does family engagement mean to you?
- How do schools and communities promote family engagement?
- What activities support family engagement?
- What works with non-engaged families?
- What are some barriers you experience to engaging with your child's school?
- What partners support family engagement? How?
- What are the crucial elements of family engagement?
- What makes a school welcoming?
- What does not work in promoting family engagement?
- If you could do one thing to support families, what would it be?

Has your school or district collected information from families and community members in this way? How could you take information gathered from a survey or set of questions like this—and use it to inform your FCE SEL plans?

What would it be like to host your own focus group of parents/families and use these and other SEL focused questions? What would you most like to learn?

Wrap up question: Is there a key question you can identify from this list that you would like to ask your students' families in the upcoming year?