



Increase inclusive opportunities for families
to engage in their students' education

Executive Report

2022 / 2023



Fresno Unified School District



Superintendent Dr. Robert G. Nelson

Message

FROM THE Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Parent University continues to evolve and expand based on families' input and students' academic needs. Our name, Parent University, encompasses all the activities of the Fresno Unified School District. Some of our newer initiatives, engaging our families through a back-to-school fun movie event and our regional family engagement nights, further demonstrate our board's commitment to serving our families district-wide and helping them support their students' academic success.

Enclosed in this 2022/23 Executive Report is a summary of our collective successes through the work of our Parent University program. Our work continues to focus on our district's Family Goal to, "Increase inclusive opportunities for families to engage in their students' education." Parent University's new strategic plan has provided a new lens in family engagement, leading to its fantastic work serving over 22,000 families.

The outcomes in this report include data collected not only during the academic year but cumulative data that shows the growth in the number of families engaged in our services. Our services encompass year-round family engagement hour, professional development for home school liaisons who also engage families at the schools, enriched childcare services, family leadership academies training, and a family recruitment center to support district-wide targeted engagement.

We thank the board for investing in our families and community partners to improve academic success for all students as well as family engagement at all school levels in Fresno Unified.

Sincerely,

Superintendent
Dr. Robert G. Nelson

ACHIEVING our GREATEST Potential!

MISSION

We nurture and cultivate the interests, intellect, and leadership of our students by providing an excellent, equitable education in a culturally proficient environment.

VISION

Fresno Unified School District:
Where students, families, and staff are valued and empowered to achieve their greatest potential.

VALUES



We Value
Learning



We Value
Accountability



We Value
Positive
Behavior



We Value
People & Our
Community

GOALS



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Professional Development

NEW INVESTMENTS + OUTCOMES



In July 2022, Superintendent Dr. Nelson selected seven district leaders to participate in the Harvard Business School's Public Education Leadership Project (PELP), which include district and school site leaders: Chief Communications Officer Nikki Henry, Instructional Superintendent Marie Williams, Instructional Superintendent Sandra Toscano, Executive Director Maiyer Vang, Principal Michael Allen, Principal on Special Assignment Carlos Arrendondo, and Manager Mony Ward. Fresno Unified School District was one of 12 districts. Each district took a Problem of Practice. Fresno Unified brought our Family Goal. The intent is to ensure family engagement is a part of the instructional core—the objective is all family engagement activities to meet Dr. Karen Mapp's three criteria.

- **CRITERIA 1:** Liberatory (free of dominance)
- **CRITERIA 2:** Solidarity-driven (in union and fellowship)
- **CRITERIA 3:** Equity-focused (fair and just)

In August 2022, Parent University hosted the first Home School Liaison (HSL) Meet and Greet and Professional Development at the Clinton Business Center in Fresno. Over 100 HSL attended the training. The professional development centered on building powerful partnerships in schools with three core beliefs from Dr. Karen Mapp, Ilene Carver, and Jessica Lander.

- **CORE BELIEF 1:** All families have dreams for their children and want the best for them.
- **CORE BELIEF 2:** All families have the capacity to support their children's learning.
- **CORE BELIEF 3:** Families and school staff are equal partners.

In October 2022, Parent University's leadership team attended the 2022 National Family Engagement Summit in Charlotte, North Carolina. The summit allowed leaders to learn how to provide family engagement in school equitably and collaborate with other leaders on ideas for school transformation and students' success around family engagement.



The intention is to provide learning to teachers and district staff based on the book, "Everyone Wins!" which showcases evidence for family-school partnerships and implications for practice. This allowed Parent University to extend on providing professional development to support over 100 teachers during the Fresno Unified's Winter Professional Development in January 2023.

- **Family Engagement and Students:**
Impact and Benefits
- **Family Engagement and Educators:**
Impact and Benefits
- **Family Engagement and Families:**
Impact and Benefits
- **Family Engagement and Schools, Districts, and Communities:**
Impact and Benefits
- **Implications for Practice:**
Acting on the Research

PARENT UNIVERSITY'S MISSION

“ Empower, Engage, and Connect Families to Support Student Achievement ”



MESSAGE FROM PARENT UNIVERSITY TEAM

Dear Family and Community,

Parent University reached a significant milestone this year and has served **87,401 families** throughout its 14-year history. Parent University is at the forefront of expanding the district's family goal to, "Increase inclusive opportunities for families to engage in their student's education."

The priority objective is to, "Increase families' sense of connectedness," and the key result is to, "Increase family participation in engagement opportunities." This school year 2022/23, Parent University has redesigned its strategic plan to better serve families and the community. The new family goal has played a significant role in this transformation.

Parent University's new strategic plan served **22,179 families**, which is close to four times the previous years. The team implemented new initiatives for families, caregivers, and community members to model curiosity and leadership for young people in their lives. These include new key elements: Family Learning, Family Leadership, Family Engagement, and Family Community Partnerships. Parent University's newly established shared vision strategies support the district's family goal. *Please see diagram to the right.*

Parent University invests in its staff to attend professional learning to increase cultural competency and build a more profound knowledge of family engagement's impact and benefits. We are committed to ensuring family engagement is a part of the instructional core.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our family engagement activities in the future.



Maiyer Vang
Executive Director,
Parent University
Fresno Unified School District

“ **87,401 Families Served**
throughout our 14 year history ”



Family Goal

OUR STRATEGIES

STRATEGY 1

Design, develop, and implement family learning to better support school sites.

STRATEGY 2

Increase family participation in leadership, advocacy, civic engagement, and decision-making through family leadership.

STRATEGY 3

Develop and implement family engagement activities that align with the district's family goal and priority objective key result.

STRATEGY 4

Improve family engagement data collections and evaluation systems.

STRATEGY 5

Establish, develop, and build a positive relationship with educational partners (diverse families, students, school sites, district departments, community partnerships, others).

STRATEGY 6

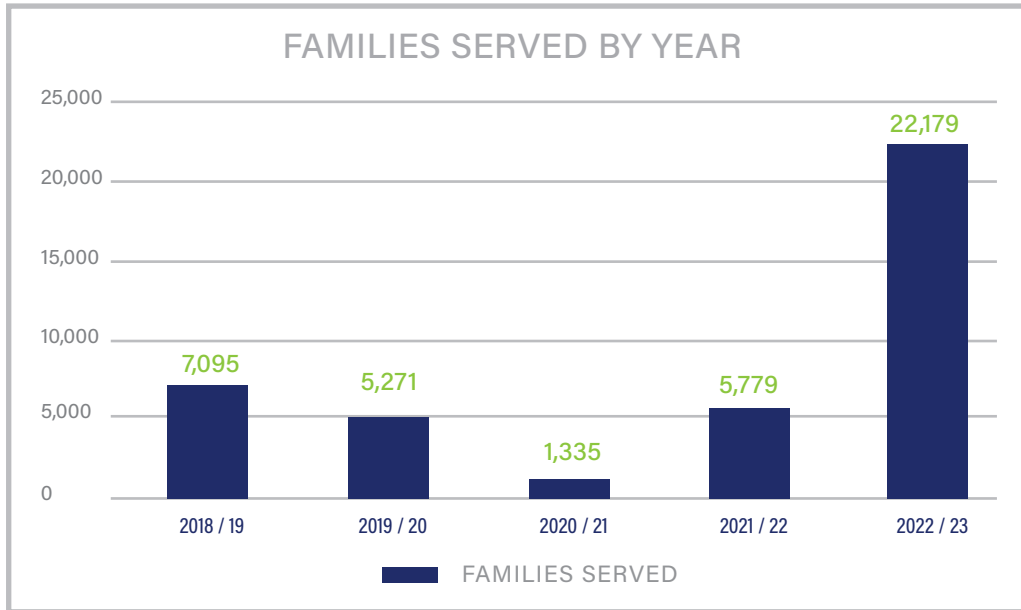
Identify families of targeted student groups and develop new recruitment plans.

Family Data

NEW INVESTMENTS + OUTCOMES

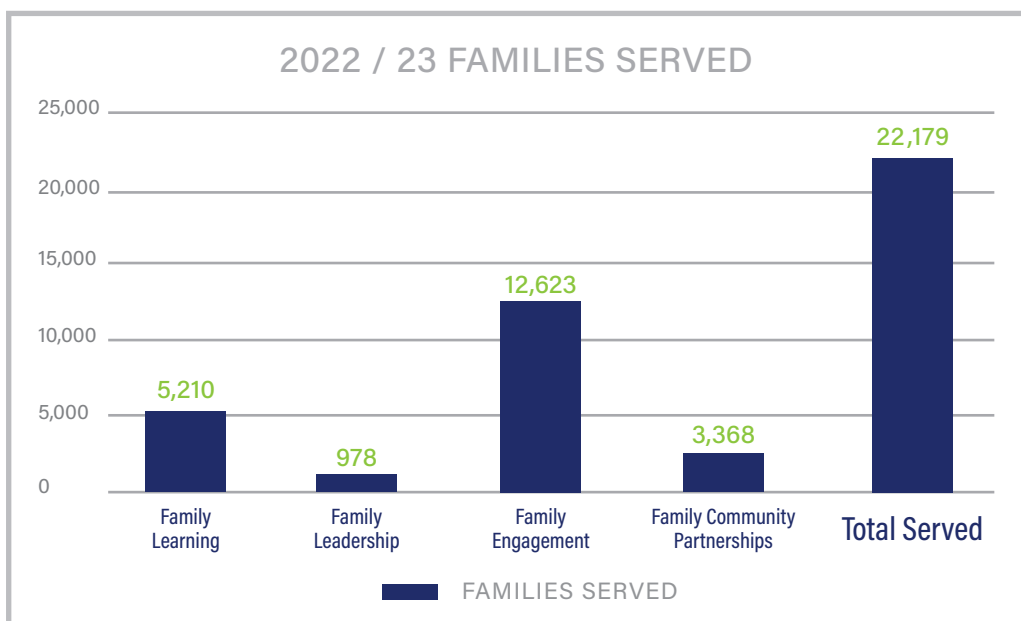
SHOWCASED FAMILIES TOTAL SERVED TO DATE

87,401



FAMILY KEY ELEMENTS

PARTICIPATIONS



5,210

Families have participated in the family engagement hour at a school site and Parent University

84

School sites have successfully implemented family engagement hour

563

Family engagement hour sessions were provided in English, Hmong, and Spanish languages

106

Home school liaisons were trained with resources to implement the Family Engagement Hour at their school site to improve home-school connection

1,800

Families provided feedback on Family Engagement Hour

84% strongly agree or agree when asked, "I will use the information today to support my student's education."

83% strongly agree or agree when asked, "I was encouraged to engage in the conversation/learning."

84% strongly agree or agree when asked "I trust my input will be used to support student outcomes."

Family Learning

NEW INVESTMENTS + OUTCOMES



Parent University has an ongoing cross-department collaboration steering committee, which includes parents, principals, department leads, and staff.

The steering committee identified ten new family learning topics with resource toolkits to implement during the family engagement hour to support student achievement.

In addition, Parent University expanded on providing professional development to support home school liaisons and staff to build a home-school-community partnerships with families by implementing a monthly family engagement hour at the school sites.

Family Learning Topics Include:

- Be Familiar with i-Ready
- Get to Know Dual Language Immersion Programs
- Financial Literacy Tips
- Tips to Monitor Social Media
- Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow
- School Safety and Procedures
- Strategies for Early Learning and Teens
- Wellness and Healthy Choices
- Mental Health Awareness
- Family Engagement Hour Celebration

Family Leadership

NEW INVESTMENTS + OUTCOMES



Parent University piloted a five-week hybrid series of new family leadership academies designed to train and develop family leaders to become effective decision-makers and strong advocates for their children's education. A new series was also developed for African American families and students with disabilities.

The focus is on leadership, advocacy, civic engagement, decision-making, and collaboration with students, school staff, district, and community leaders to support student outcomes.

Family Leadership Academies Topics Include:

- Discovering Your Leadership
- Leadership Styles and Develop Leadership Skills
- Family-School Partnership Framework-4Cs
- Building Trust and Rapport
- Project Development and Leadership in Action



978

Family leaders participated in leadership academies

22

Family leadership academy sessions were provided in English, Hmong, and Spanish languages

111

Family Leaders participated in 10 focus groups designed to provide feedback to enhance the superintendent dashboard and choose fresh science textbooks

7

Leadership projects were identified by families: beautifying two school communities and showcasing appreciation to teachers and staff at five schools

215

Family leaders volunteered for the leadership projects

129

Family leaders participated in leadership field trips to gain additional real-world leadership experiences

37

Family leaders attended a district board meeting to observe the process and had an opportunity to speak in front of the board of education

46

Family leaders attended a hands-on training program to enhance their leadership skills through training at an outdoor camp

12,623

Families and students participated in nine new family engagement events to support the family goal.

1,916

Families attended the Family Goal Kickoff. Free haircuts, backpacks, and school supplies were provided to students, and 641 families watched a movie at Maya Cinemas.

2,020

Families and 15 vendors attended Parent University's Open House. We provided a safe place for families to have a fun Halloween Trunk-or-Treat experience and receive resources to support student outcomes.

6,687

Families participated in the 6 regional family engagement events. Each board member identified themes for their region.

2,000

Families attended the Family Goal Celebration to recognize their participation in family engagement hour and family leadership academies throughout the school year.

Family Engagement

NEW INVESTMENTS + OUTCOMES



Family Community Partnerships

NEW INVESTMENTS + OUTCOMES



Parent University strives to provide inclusive family learning opportunities districtwide. Through the support of our community partnerships, we offer year-round family engagement opportunities in English, Hmong, Khmer, Lao, Mixteco, Punjabi and Spanish.

Our community partnerships are the Binational Center for the Development of Oaxacan Indigenous, Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative, Fresno Street Saints, Inter-Act and Associates, Parent Institute for Quality Education, The Fresno Center, Success Together, the City of Fresno's Police Department, and GO Public Schools Fresno.



3,368

Families participated in our community partners' family learning workshops including college requirements, common core state standards, high school requirements, student support tools and resources to succeed, self-care for families, literacy, and STEM hands-on experience.

555

Students and families connected to local experts through our partnership with Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC) to support families needing immigration, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal, naturalization, and family emergency planning.

79

Families received Fresno City College credits by participating in the Residents Academy with Fresno Police Department, and an effort to connect school communities with local law enforcement resources and tour Fresno Police headquarters.

160

Families and students received an opportunity to explore hands-on activities, career exploration, and networking at Job Corps and Tech Interactive through our community partnership with The Fresno Center.

Family Resource Center

NEW INVESTMENTS + OUTCOMES

6,674

Families served at the Family Resource Center for chaperone fingerprinting, the district's family formal advisories, and Parent University's family engagement activities.

2,739

Families fingerprinted for chaperones and volunteer engagement opportunities throughout the district.

438

Families, students, and community leaders participated in the Parent Advisory Committee meetings to provide feedback to improve the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

280

Families and 210 children participated in the Community Advisory Committee to raise school district and community awareness regarding the needs of students and their families in the FUSD special education programs and provide recommendations for the LCAP.

728

Young leaders received enriched childcare while families attended family engagement activities.



Over 30,000 personal phone calls were made through the Parent University Call Center to invite families to participate in family engagement events and activities.

Investment from the Board of Education and Superintendent, Parent University funded a state of the art hybrid system in the training room and new furniture that meet ADA compliances in the childcare area to support families.



Christopher
De La Cerda

Chairperson
PAC



Maria
Gonzalez

Vice-Chairperson
PAC



Raquel
Pineda

Secretary
PAC

MEET OUR Parent University Team



Nikki Henry

Chief Communications Officer



Maiyer Vang

Executive Director



Kimberly Hendricks-Brown

Principal on Special Assignment



Chankeo Vang

Manager I



Marbella Lemus

Manager I



Andy Moua

Primary Language Instruction Specialist



Angelica Campa

Primary Language Instruction Specialist



Anna Yang

Primary Language Instruction Specialist



Aura Convers

Primary Language Instruction Specialist



Choua Her

Primary Language Instruction Specialist



Estefania Aguilar Gutierrez

Primary Language Instruction Specialist



Irma Keith

Primary Language Instruction Specialist



Maribel Gomez

Primary Language Instruction Specialist



Salvador Covarrubias Delatorre

Primary Language Instruction Specialist



Xee Xiong

Primary Language Instruction Specialist



Ana Jauregui

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Ashley Galloway

Primary Language Instruction Specialist (Substitute)



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Pa Houa Vue

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THANK YOU, BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR YOUR INVESTMENTS IN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Veva Islas
Board President
McLane Region



Susan Witttrup
Board Clerk
Bullard Region



Valerie F. Davis
Board Trustee
Sunnyside Region



Claudia Cazares
Board Trustee
Hoover Region



Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas
Board Trustee
Roosevelt Region



Keshia Thomas
Board Trustee
Edison Region



Andy Levine
Board Trustee
Fresno Region

Family Testimonials

"I write to express how grateful my wife and I are for the guidance we have received from the wonderful Parent University. We have learned tools and strategies that help us support our daughters. We have seen positive results, better grades, and more recognition, which makes us proud as parents.

As parents, there is nothing more fulfilling than witnessing your child's eagerness to learn and achieve their goals. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Parent University team for their unwavering support, dedication, and effort in assisting parents and guardians of students in the Fresno Unified School District."



Francisco Duran
Parent, Duncan High School

"As a new parent to Fresno Unified School District, I was invited to many family engagement hour sessions and learned strategies and programs to help my child in his future education.

I am amazed to be able to attend the Hmong parents' sessions, the presenter spoke Hmong all the time and was very patient with the older parents who don't speak English. Some strategies that I learned and practiced with my child have shown an impact and changed him for the better. A great program that I discovered about and called back to Parent University to learn more was CALKIDS.



Mai Lee Lor
Parent, Balderas Elementary School

This program is a game changer for me and my child's future when he goes to college.

That being said, I am grateful to Parents University for all they have done and for not giving up supporting parents."

