

*Leadership With Purpose*

# Family Engagement Workshop

*Engaging Families as Partners*

*Tips for Success for Meaningful Partnerships*

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# Learning Objectives

***Following this presentation, you will:***

- Understand where you are on the Progression of Leadership***
- Explore ways to avoid Learned Helplessness***
- Learn 5 Key steps to Advocacy***
- Understand how advocacy fits into this discussion***
- Practice Advocacy skills***

First Time you Stood up for a Child



# Progression of Family Leadership



# Learned Helplessness

- Enabling vs. Empowering
- Short Term vs. Long Term (Shared Vision)
- Entitlement vs. Eligibility (Transition)
- Service vs. Partnership

# Readiness Factors for Family-Educator Partnerships

## Families:

- Clarify your role, expectations and accountability
- Be honest about your skills, knowledge and abilities
- Present yourself as a project consultant
- Can you represent the constituency of families
- Model partnership at all levels
- **Braid experience with knowledge and skills**

# Four Tips from Professionals

- **Intellect over Emotion (I/E).**
- **Trust that you matter.**
- **Cultivate and grow your experience – mentor others.**
- **Communicate effectively – consider community-based learning formats.**

“Remember..my kid can’t talk!”





# Core Strategies

- Respond vs. React
- Know that you are representing a constituency
- Practice Practice Practice
- Always be open for feedback

Strategies to be a strong partner with your child's education team.



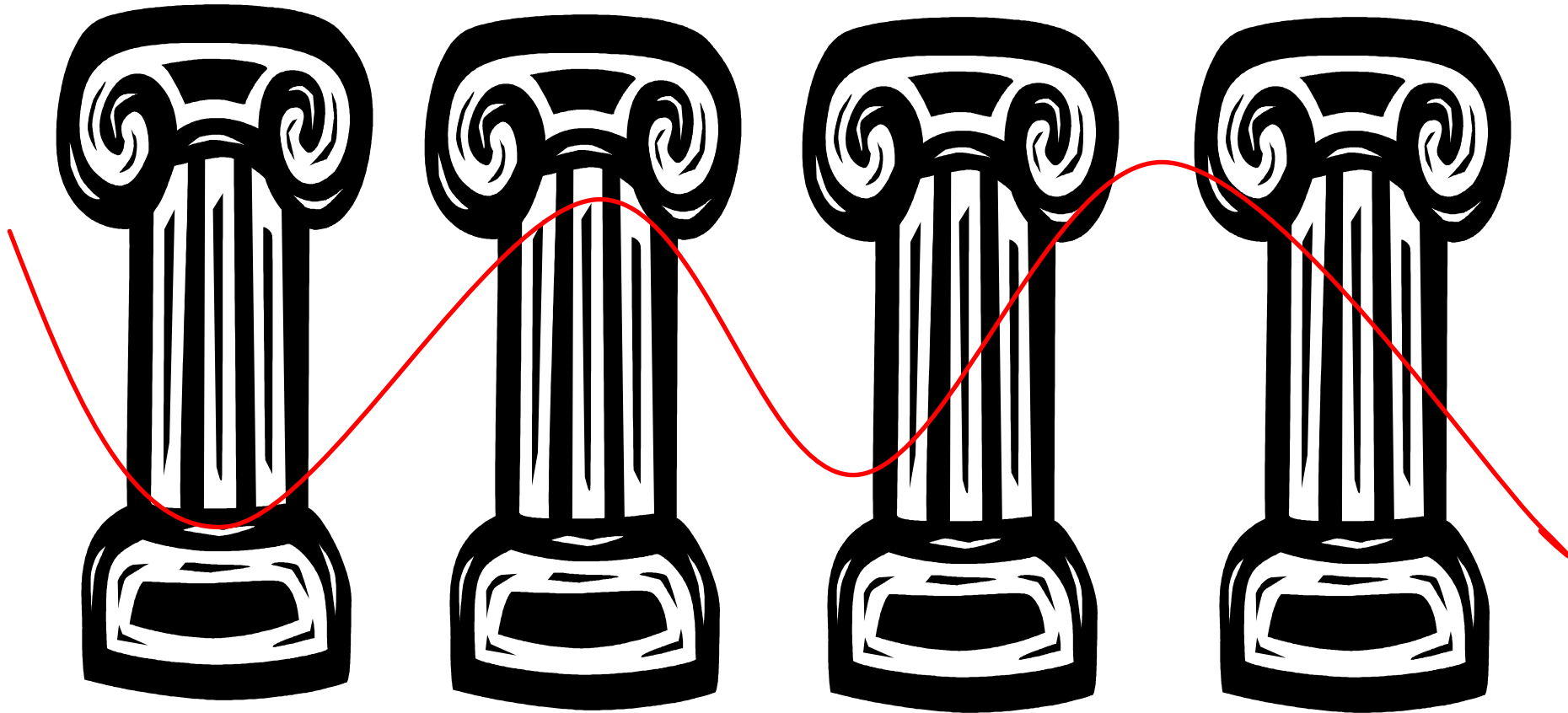
# Families are a horizontal thread in a vertical system.

Health

Housing

Education

Safety



# Five Steps Toward Successful Advocacy

# See yourself in IEP Team Excellence

- Improve communication between members of the education team
- Support excellent transitions at all levels
- Model self leadership skills
- Support development of stronger alliances with community organizations and peer supports
- Promote greater understanding of strengths of families

# Mythbusting for Families

Fear-Based Thinking	Innovative Thinking
<i>My experience doesn't matter.</i>	<i>My experience could be a valuable teaching moment for my school/ education team.</i>
<i>The "business" of education is too complex.</i>	<i>Most teachers and principals have children in the same school district, we have shared experiences.</i>
<i>FERPA regulations won't allow me to have access to quality reports</i>	<i>As a Family Leader I will sign a confidentiality statement like any other consultant.</i>
<i>Education reform/quality improvement is too big and takes too much time.</i>	<i>Keeping the Public in Public Education is a win-win for everyone!</i>
<i>I don't have time to get involved.</i>	<i>Developing a clear and concise consulting framework will benefit myself and other families.</i>
<i>I've offered feedback in the past, but no one ever listens.</i>	<i>Communicate differently.</i>

# Core IEP Excellence questions to ponder

- What is going well?
- What could be better?
- What are some ways we can partner?

# Thank You!

*Feel free to contact me .....*

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