Involving Latino Parents at School
Overcoming Misunderstandings and Obstacles

Obstacle 1: Lack of Spanish Interpretation and Translation
- Understanding the Problem
  - Talk to the parents
  - Pick the most important barriers to focus on.

Ways to Overcome:
- Schools should recognize the cultural and social capital Latino families bring to the table.
- Provide parent ways they can help children at home.
- Make it easy for them to participate at school.
- Provide translation services.
- Encourage participation in school events.
- Schedule events at various times so parents can attend.

Obstacle 2: Different Definitions of "Homework"
- Understanding the Problem
  - Interpretation, academic, talking with homework, and other ways of learning that are home-based.

Ways to Overcome:
- Schools should recognize the cultural and social capital Latino families bring to the table.
- Provide parent ways they can help children at home.
- Make it easy for them to participate at school.
- Provide translation services.
- Encourage participation in school events.
- Schedule events at various times so parents can attend.

Obstacle 3: Lack of Communication
- Understanding the Problem
  - Interpretation, academic, talking with homework, and other ways of learning that are home-based.

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- Provide parent ways they can help children at home.
- Make it easy for them to participate at school.
- Provide translation services.
- Encourage participation in school events.
- Schedule events at various times so parents can attend.

Goal:
A welcoming environment where all Latino parents feel that their voice is heard, their children are valued, and that they can actively participate in multiple ways in school life!
Involving Latino Parents at School: Overcoming Misunderstandings and Obstacles

**Obstacle 1:**
- **Understanding the Problem:**
  - Talk to the parent
  - Pinpoint the most important barriers to focus on

- **Ways to Overcome:**
  - External resources and translation assistance
  - Provide interpretation and translation

**Obstacle 2:**
- **Ways to Overcome:**
  - Schools should recognize the cultural and social capital Latino families bring to the table
  - Provide parents ways they can help children & families
  - Editing support for them to participate at school

**Obstacle 3:**
- **Ways to Overcome:**
  - Provide opportunities for school engagement
  - Schools need on various times so parents who work can come

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Involving Latino Parents at School

Overcoming Misunderstandings and Obstacles
Understanding the Problem
-Talk to the parents.
Understanding the Problem

-Talk to the parents.
-Pick the most important barriers to focus on.
Lack of Spanish Interpretation and Translation
Ways to Overcome

- Increase availability of interpretation at parent meetings and in general throughout school.

- Ensure all written and digital materials are distributed in Spanish.

- Hire more bilingual staff members and teachers.
Understanding

Different Definitions of "Involvement"

- Schools: coming to meetings, participating in fundraisers, volunteering, etc.
- Latino parents: providing moral guidance, overseeing education, helping with homework, and other ways of helping that are home-based.

Obstacle 2

Ways to Overcome

- Schools should recognize the social capital Latino families can bring.
- Provide parents ways to get involved at home.
- Make it easy for them at school.
  - Provide transportation
  - Combine purposes for different events/meetings
  - Schedule events at times when parents who work
Obstacle 2
Different Definitions of “Involvement”

-Schools: coming to meetings, participating in fundraisers, volunteering, etc.

-Latino parents: providing moral guidance, overseeing education, helping with homework, and other ways of helping that are home-based.
Ways to Overcome
- Schools should recognize the cultural and social capital Latino families bring to the table.
- Provide parents ways they can help children at home.
- Make it easy for them to participate at school.
  - Provide transportation, child care.
  - Combine purposes of school events/meetings.
  - Schedule events at various times so parents who work can come.
Obstacle 3

Lack of Communication

- Latino parents often feel that schools don’t communicate with them enough or personally about their children.
- They want to know how their kids are doing and how they can help them succeed.

Historically, white, non-Hispanic parents receive more general and personal communication about their children.

Goal

A welcoming environment where parents feel that their voices are heard and that their children are valued and that they can participate in multiple ways.
Obstacle 3

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Ways to Overcome

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Ways to Overcome

-Make home visits to talk about children and to build relationships.
-Create a physical space in school where parents can meet and talk with bilingual school tip sheets and information bulletins can be seen.
-Create a parent organization for Latino parents, or perhaps for all non-English-speaking parents in the school, in which parents do the recruiting.
-Reach out specifically to Latino parents in ways that are meaningful to them.
-Work to create personal relationships through conversation and social gatherings.
-Provide English, parenting, parents’ rights, GED, classes to parents, and/or connect them with local community organizations that do.
-Again, hire parent liaisons and teachers who are bilingual and who understand Latino culture.
-Again, ALL written and digital materials sent home must be in Spanish and English. Ensure that Spanish materials are not written at such a high level that they cannot be understood by all parents.
Goal

A welcoming environment where all Latino parents feel that their voice is heard, their children are valued and that they can actively participate in multiple ways in school life!