



What Does An Engaged Community Look Like?

The whole school community must be involved in and lead education policy implementation efforts. Use this set of community goals to get started with a vision of what meaningful engagement looks like to you!

“Imagine this: A community comes together to set a vision for its public schools. In local libraries, neighborhood associations, school cafeterias, and places of worship, families sit down together and share their hopes and dreams for their children... Together they talk about what they love about their schools and what they’re worried about. They articulate their long-term vision for success — not just for their school or school system, but also for their young people.”

- Read more at [Tntp.org/Walking-Together](https://www.tntp.org/Walking-Together)

1. Communities Build Trust

School communities must *deliberately build* trust in order to support student success and dignity.

A system of trust includes:



2. Community Participation is Inclusive

Those who are involved in administration and decision-making must **reflect the political, racial, income/wealth, language, gender, sexual orientation, and cultural diversity** of the school community that they serve.

Ensure that:

- Administrators invite participation
- Community members take leadership roles
- Processes are transparent
- All community members collaborate with compassion
- There is time made for feedback

Ask Yourself:

- ? How can I speak up, and make my voice heard?
- ? How can I lift up the voices of those whose, thus far, have been left out?

3. Communities Are Empowered to Engage and Lead

Meaningful engagement means sharing responsibility, power, and voice:

- All members of the school community have the right to participate in decision-making.
- To invite participation, school administrators must build shared language around programs and policy.
- Decision makers at all levels must educate themselves about the needs and assets of their communities, including race and culture.

Students, families, and advocates know their communities; their empowered participation in impactful decision-making is essential, especially when the conversation focuses on policy, budget, or strategic planning.

What does empowerment mean to you?

4. Engagement is Strategic and Responsive

Strategic Means:

- Funded
- Regularly scheduled (e.g. quarterly meetings)
- Run by competent leadership
- Connected to the strategic plan or long-term goals of the school, district, and state
- Inclusive of all stakeholders

Responsive Means:

- Guided by agendas/goals that play to the strengths of participants
- Small enough for individual voices to be heard
- Held at times and in places that make it easy for members to participate
- Connected to relevant issues facing the students and school

5. Community Members are Involved in Every Part of the Policy Process!

This means that school community members are involved in understanding information, planning, writing policy and fundraising, budgeting, and implementation of new policy and existing practice!

What is one thing you can do to be involved right now?

*Nothing about us
without us!*



To learn more about what process you can be involved in and how, check out [The Organizer's Packet](#)

This is a Tool from the **Engage for Education Equity Toolkit**. Find more at partnersforeachandeverychild.org/engageforequity