FINDING THE COMMUNITY IN YOUR OWN SCHOOL

Department of Family and Community Engagement
WE ARE D.F.C.E.
Spokane Public Schools’ Department of Family and Community Engagement
ABOUT US

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THREE TAKEAWAYS

**VALUE**
Finding the community within your own school.

**KNOWLEDGE**
Connecting students and their families in meaningful ways.

**PRINCIPLES**
Create strong, authentic, professional relationships.
COMMUNITY IN YOUR OWN BUILDING
THE DFCE CENTRAL TEAM

Oscar Harris, Ed.D
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Mentors and Community Support Specialists

10/19/22
THE ART OF THE EXCHANGE

Perfect balance together.

Know when to let go, and when to receive.

Pass it to the right person.
THE ART OF THE EXCHANGE

Values

Knowledge

Principles
Your Growing Opportunity

Connect In-Building
Administration
MTSS - Multi-Tiered Support Specialists
Teachers and Paras
Transportation
Foster Care Liaison
Counselors
HEART - Homeless Education and Resource Team - McKinney-Vento

Connect Your Community
Mentorships
Charities
Businesses

Connect with Families
Model Relationship
Model Connection
Model Support

Connect with One Another
Create Strong, Authentic, Professional, Relationships with one another

Remember the WHY and work towards the common goal

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DFCE 2022 BECCA
KNOWLEDGE:
TEND YOUR OWN GARDEN
AND REMEMBER YOUR WHY

SOIL
Are you the right person at the right time to work with this student?

WATER
Do you have the resources and connections that they need to succeed?

SUN
They might grow with you, but will they flourish?

Make sure your values, knowledge, and principles are aligned with your work
PRINCIPLE:
BE HONEST AND AUTHENTIC

The goal is help students find their own success. Chances are, most everyone around you has that same goal.

Create connection through vulnerability.

If a student doesn’t flourish in your garden, find someone who can help them do so.

Model teamwork for your students.
WHO’S CONNECTIONS ARE NOT YET UTILIZED?
USE YOUR HANDOUT TO FILL IN THE HONEY COMBS

COMMUNITY
What are you unfamiliar with in your building and community that you want to know about?
What do you bring to the table?

SERVICES
What services would you like to see offered but are not sure that are or are not sure how to access?
Who do you ask?

RELATIONSHIP
How do we connect families, your organization, and those outside of your organization?
Opportunities
BREAK OUT!
WHO’S CONNECTIONS ARE NOT YET UTILIZED?
REPORT OUT

COMMUNITY
What do you bring to the table?

- Catholic Charities
- Spark Central
- Teen Closet
- ESD 101
- Northwest Harvest

SERVICES
Who do you ask?

- CASA Partners
- Carl Maxey Center
- Juvenile Court
- MLK Center

RELATIONSHIP
Opportunity

- Northwest Electrical Solutions
- Tall Tree Service
- Choice Reality

10/19/22
CASE STUDY
“DESTINY”

“Another failing student.”

Junior Year
• Multiple Credits behind
• No class participation
• Attendance Issues
• Suspensions and Expulsions
• Low Homework quality
• Conflicts with teachers

Senior Year
• As and Bs
• Increased attendance issues
• Sporadic outbursts in class
• Increased referrals for phone use in class
• Unexpected walk-outs
BUILDING DESTINY’S COMMUNITY

Which co-workers would you connect with?

What questions would you ask?

What tools do you use?

What community supports would you reach out to?
REPORTING BACK

If Destiny was in your sphere of influence, who would you connect with to support her?

What considerations do you have when working with Destiny?

How do you gather information for her in a sensitive and considerate way?
The Real Story

Junior Year
- COVID-19
- Remote learning
- No daycare for siblings
- Parents are essential workers
- Poor relationship with teacher
- Strong distrust of school personnel
- Cultural and generational trauma
- No connection at school
- Family relationships fracture
- Addiction present in family
- Qualifies as Housing Insecure
- First Gen Student
- Has to provide care for siblings
- CPS Involved
- Siblings regularly text

Senior Year
- Goals
  - Education and Skills
  - Food, Housing, Safety

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DESTINY’S COMMUNITY WHEN SHE GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL

High School Staff

11th and 12th Grade Counselors
Assistant Principal
HEART Team
RISE Team

College Staff

Multicultural Club
Entrance and Transfer Counselors
Work Study
McKinney-Vento Liaison

Community Connections

Public Transit
College Food Bank
MLK Center Food Bank

YMCA Donations
Co-Workers
RISE Donations
THREE BIG QUESTIONS
TO ASK THE STUDENT YOU WORK WITH

WHAT
DO YOU WANT?
VALUE

WHERE
DO YOU WANT TO BE IN 5 YEARS?
KNOWLEDGE

HOW
DO YOU WANT TO GET THERE?
PRINCIPLE
THE BECCA STUDENTS OF TODAY ARE THE TEACHERS OF TOMORROW
STUDENT EXPERIENCE, STUDENT WISDOM
You are a vital part of your community.
You have a community.
Students and families need you.
You are changing the lives of those around you.
You can do this.
THANK YOU.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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