Resource 2

Family Decision Making and Advocacy in Schools

Openness and trust are key to establishing successful family involvement programs. Use the following practices that reflect on family decision making and advocacy in schools to think about actions you could take to improve involvement.

Providing Knowledge/Training

1. Some ways in which I treat parent’s concerns and demonstrate genuine interest in developing solutions are: ____________________________________________________________

2. Some ways in which I include parents on all decision making and advisory committees and offer understandable, accessible and well publicized ways to influence decisions, raise concerns, appeal decisions and resolve problems are:______________________________________

3. Some ways in which I offer training for parents on parenting, group problem solving, team building, conflict resolution, time management and shared decision making are: ____________________________________________________________

Sharing Information

1. Some ways in which I use parents’ native language to provide them with the current information on school policies, practices and student school performance data are: ____________________________________________________________

2. Some ways in which I promote communication and provide up-to-date information on current issues by establishing interactive computer systems that electronically link school sites with the district office are: ____________________________________________________________

3. Some ways in which I publish results of surveys that assess educators’ or community members’ satisfaction with the site-based management team’s work are: ____________________________________________________________

Taking Action

1. Some ways in which I encourage active parent participation in the decisions that affect students, such as student placement, course selection and individualized education plans are: ____________________________________________________________

2. Some ways in which I promote parent participation on school, district, state and national issues are: ____________________________________________________________