Cultivating Leadership Skills Among Immigrant Parents for Engaging in Advocacy

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Continuum of Immigrant Parent Involvement

Model by Young-Chan Han

- Leaders
- Connectors
- Learners
- Survivors
Poll #1
Parental Rights & Advocacy

- Right to weigh in on school board policies, regulations, & committees
- Right to provide input on the school district’s budget and how funds are spent
- Right to receive information in preferred language
Immigrant Parent Advocacy: Example 1

Immigrant parents attend school board meetings
Immigrant Parent Advocacy: Example 2

Immigrant parents testify in front of the school board
Immigrant Parent Advocacy: Example 3

Immigrant parents testify in front of the county government
Developing Leadership & Advocacy Skills: Maryland Experience

- Immigrant parent leadership classes / academies
- Immigrant parent advisory boards

WBAL-TV (Howard County, MD)
Developing Leadership & Advocacy Skills: Other Examples

Two organizations focused on Immigrants & Refugees:
• Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors (http://ap-od.org/)
• Somali Parents Education Board (https://speboard.org)
Developing Leadership & Advocacy Skills: More Examples

Very inclusive and/or Big Focus on Immigrants:

• Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network (PLAN) (http://www.parentactionnet.org/)
• Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) (http://www.cofionline.org/)
• United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN) (http://unitedparentleaders.org/)
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