What Makes for Quality Education for English Learners in the 21st Century?

What Needs To Be Included and What Actions Can We Take:
Lessons Learned from the Past and New ideas for Today

Open Space Report: New York City

As a convener, we would like you to put together a short report from your group describing the following. When you're finished, please type in this report in one of the laptops and hand in this sheet. Thanks!

1. Names of group members
Dr, Florence Pu-Folkes and Mr. Abul Kalam Azad – Team Leaders

2. Issue/Topic/Activity
Parent's Involvement/Parent Engagement
Parents as Partners
Parent Empowerment
Funds for Parents Activities and Education

3. Highlights of Discussion/Recommendations/Next Action Steps
   • Parents need to be more involved, but have no time or often feel intimidated;
   • Parents are not informed and we need to reach out to parents where they are, e.g. churches, mosques, factories (how to succeed in reaching parents);
   • The need of educators to work with parents as partners:
     Parents have resources to share and to inform us how to reach out to other parents, and how to effectively educate their children

4. Available Resources
   • Grants from federal, state, and local agencies
   • CBOs working with immigrants
   • Parent’s organizations
   • Office of Civil Rights and other supportive organizations

5. Follow-up requests
   1. Research available resources that have already been created.
   2. Create brief parent pamphlet regarding parent’s rights and responsibilities. Investigate current similar documents from resources such as institutions of higher education and
organizations. The pamphlet should be available in different languages, should be brief, colorful with illustrations, and be distributed to parents at registration/schools.

3. Creating a directory of organizations that are helpful to parents. The directory should include a description of the organization. (in different languages) These directories should be given to parents and explained to them in the language they understand.

4. Reach out to organizations to inform parents to write letters about the reauthorization to their representatives at the federal, state and city levels. These letters should be drafted at town hall meetings or round table sessions. It is important that parents organizations, CBOs and individuals are contacted about this to have input from parents in this reauthorization document.

5. Help is needed from all attendees to reach out to the parents/Parents Organizations, explain to them about the Reauthorization and make them understand that their input is important.