

Starter event

This activity is a starter event; you may not feel you have accomplished a measurable outcome once it is completed. However, months later, this event will become part of a culmination of events that can lead to successful involvement. If you need information or buy-in on a topic different from the one suggested, create new questions to refocus this activity.

Think in terms of special education topics, processes, policies, and procedures.

1. Contact a well-respected family or community member from the school neighborhood and ask that person to cofacilitate a meeting to explore expectations for the students in the community. Discussion at this meeting should focus on *What we want for our students*.
2. Invite school staff, family members, students, and community members to attend the meeting. Be sure to take advantage of the contacts the cofacilitator has in the community.
3. Divide the participants into groups of four or five and give each group the following question to discuss *What does being educated mean to you?*
4. Ask each group of four or five to join a second group and again discuss this question.
5. Ask the larger group what they have heard in their smaller groups. Record these answers on chart paper and post.
6. Ask the large group if they have heard something that they would not have considered before this discussion. Record those responses on chart paper and post.
7. Ask the larger group if they heard any patterns or common threads across all of the discussions. Record these responses on chart paper and post.
8. Close the meeting.

Be sure to share a report communicating the key points of the responses to each question and the meeting in general with families and staff via a newsletter, Web site, newspaper story, or one-on-one contacts with families and staff.

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