



## Family Engagement for High School Success

### Student Focus Group Protocol

#### Agenda.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Group Questions
3. Close and Thank Participants

#### *A few quick suggestions for holding your focus group.*

- 6-8 is a great size for a focus group. You don't need a big room full of people to get good information.
- Food helps! If your school has the budget, consider having a snack at the meeting and making this part of your advertisement.
- Attention facilitator: it's your job to be neutral, and ask questions to clarify (not participate directly.) Even if you disagree with what's being said, it's important that you consider the issue and write it down. If your group seems to disagree on issues, make this part of your documentation (for example, circle issues where most of the group agrees). Do not try to solve problems on the spot. Your job is to listen and take good notes.

#### Welcome and Introductions.

*Thank you for coming!*

*Research shows that parents and family members are important to each student's success. Your school is participating in a planning process to help schools to better partner with families towards increased graduation. We have scheduled an hour to answer 5 questions.*

Go around the room and have each person say their name. Write down the number in attendance.

### Questions.

Ask each question, and any follow-up questions you need to understand participant answers. Write down answers and ideas on your flip chart paper.

1. *What are the best things that your parent or family member does or says to support you in school? (if students need more prompting, ask about basics like meals, rides to school, reminding them to complete homework, etc.)*
2. *What should schools do to better support parents of high school students?*
3. *Do you have the information you need to understand what it takes to graduate and to achieve your college or career goals? If not, what is needed?*
4. *What are ways that you'd like your family to be involved with the school or your academics? What if any barriers (obstacles) exist to participating this way?*
5. *What ideas do you have to improve family involvement in school? How would these ideas help students achieve a better education?*

### Closing.

*Thank them for their time. Let them know that we are interested that there might be more opportunities to participate in the future—gather contact information of anyone that might be interested. Please send the notes from your meeting to [dcrain@washoe.k12.nv.us](mailto:dcrain@washoe.k12.nv.us).*

