Introduction – 1 minute

I. Facilitator introduces **Slide #2** and describes what we are going to talk about today.

Thinking Back – 5 minutes

II. Hand out copies of **Family Engagement Best Practices (green)** from August to each site.

III. **Slide #3** Facilitator, "Take a moment to reflect on family engagement at your school. Has anything changed since we discussed this in August?" Pause for reflection.
   a. Ask for a few responses.

Relationships – 15 minutes

IV. **DO NOT TURN TO THE SLIDE UNTIL AFTER THE ACTIVITY -** Facilitator, "Relationships are at the heart of engaging families. We'd like to do an activity that looks at home school relationships. In a minute, we're going to ask everyone to stand up and move towards the poster that matches your school. We want to challenge everyone to be as honest and self reflective as they can. There are no right or wrong answers, this is simply a discussion."

V. **Ask everyone to stand up and then read the first two statements.** "If your school looks more like ***Have your children follow my directions about their homework and other assignments*** then move towards that poster. If your school looks more like ***Here are some ways to monitor your children's homework and build their skills. Tell us what else you do to help your children*** then move towards that poster. If you are somewhere in between then stand in the middle. Repeat this process through all four steps.
   a. **'Academic Support' Tip:** Once people have moved, start with the individuals on the positive side of the room and **ask them to share how they got there. Did something change at their school? Was there something that helped them to change in the way that they've worked with families?** If there seems to be a lull in conversation, ask the group. "How often do we start a conversation with families by asking a question?" "Do we ask them to tell us what they do at home to help their children?" Acknowledge the fact that if some people are standing towards the other statement – this is more in line with our nation's historical relationship with families. The school was the authority and families obeyed.
   b. **'Parent Support' Tip:** Ask, **Is there anyone who works with families to develop a code of conduct? How do you do that? Can you briefly describe how that has changed your relationship with families?** You can tie in examples with PBS and how discipline in a school and the way we work with students has changed. This is a more collaborative approach in working with families. Getting their buy-in from the beginning on matters such as discipline helps to develop a mutual relationship.
   c. **'Status' Tip:** Ask, **Can you think of a time when all of the cultures represented at your school are honored? How do you do this? Do you invite families to share their cultures?** When we ask families to share their culture it makes them feel as if they are a part of the school, as if they have something to contribute.
   d. **'Participation' Tip:** Ask, **Do we decide what parents need to know or do we ask what they would like more information on? Do we hold our parent meetings at times that are only convenient**

for staff or do we consider the schedules of our families? Ask individuals to discuss their experiences with this if time allows.

VI. **Show slide #4 –** These statements were from the book – *Beyond the Bake Sale* and describe the differences in what a mutual vs. lopsided relationship feels like to a family.

Relooking at our Research Based Best Practices – 15 minutes

I. **Show slide #5 –** Facilitator, "We are going to go back to the **Family Engagement Best Practices (green)** sheet that you looked at the beginning of today's session." Take a minute to review your previous work. Ask them if their current activities are truly meeting the best practice criteria? If they are not sure, ask them to think about what they need to do to fit the criteria. They will have time to reflect while they are engaged in the group activity.

II. Split them into three groups, **handout the yellow sheets with a list of best practices** and assign each group three of the main circles with examples of best practices. Ask the groups to add something that they do at their own schools to address the assigned category. Ask each group to share and highlight each circle as they talk about it. Ask them to pick one thing that they will go back and work on at their school. Tell them about the Zoomerang survey and encourage them to participate in it.

The Hoover-Dempsey & Sandler Model – 5 minutes

I. **Slide #6 --** Facilitator, "We realize it's difficult to read this slide and we are not going to get into the heart of this research. This model is from Kathleen Hoover-Dempsey at Vanderbilt University. She's a researcher in the area of family engagement and has been working on this model for the last 15 years. Basically, what it says is…

a. In the middle steps is where all of the partnership activities with families happen. These are the workshops, the conferences, and the skill building activities that help our families to know how to support their children.
b. One of the common mistakes that happen with schools is that they go straight to the workshops without the bottom layer.
c. The bottom layer is where we motivate **(click)** and personally invite **(click)** families to be involved in our schools. This is where we build the relationships. If we don't do this first, then the families that we need to see **are not going to come to our workshops to learn how to support their children** and we are not going to get to the top which is increased student achievement **(click).**
d. Finally, one last point is that the most important thing that families can do for their children is tell them **(click):** You need to work hard. Homework is very important. School and education are very important.
e. Handout – **orange Hoover-Dempsey model** and let them know that the full research study will be posted on the District's web site with the remaining materials from this module. The Parent Involvement Office will send you a link by tomorrow.

Resources – 5 minutes

I. **Slide #7** Show the recently completed web site of resources and best practices from the schools. Handout and describe **laminated hot pink 11 x 17 - How to Build the Capacity of Your Staff to Engage All Families.**

Wrap-up and Evaluation – 5 minutes

I. **Slide #8** Facilitator, "Thank you for your time this morning and please fill out your **blue evaluations."**