

# TRUE COLLABORATION

To ensure authentic collaboration:

- ***School personnel and families must be considered equals.*** Be very careful of attitudes which imply “us against them,” “educators are the experts,” “we know what is best,” “parents don’t care.”
- ***Let families know that all school personnel really do care what families think.*** Make sure all actions express this philosophy.
- ***Find out what parents think they need, not what “we” think they need*** (needs assessments, surveys). Follow through.
- ***Ensure constant communication with parents so that they are well informed about their own child*** (both the good and the bad).
- ***Encourage parents to ask questions/express concerns.***
- ***Take into consideration what the parents want for their child.*** They have the most invested.
- ***Problem-solve with parents on any problems a student might be having***—not only academically but socially.
- ***Give families a real voice in school issues.*** Consider them for committees when hiring new personnel, making important school decisions, revising school policies, etc.