

## 2024-25 Care & Connection: Outreach To Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians

Dear Wonderful Educators,

I know many of you use the first few weeks of school to build an important partnership with parents, caregivers, and guardians in support of your students.

Thank you for taking that extra step! It makes all the difference.

For schools not already implementing this critical lever for connection and success, please take the first few weeks to call the parents, caregivers, or guardians of your students and let them know how excited you are to have their young scholar(s) in class and ask them how you can unite with them in service of their students' needs.

### How Your Immediate And Direct Connection Boosts Student Learning

Parents, caregivers and guardians make up a foundational part of our school communities. Learning occurs for students both within and beyond the school walls, and the stronger our connections are with the people closest to our students, the more opportunities we have to deeply know and fully support them.

### Helpful Prompts

This year, along with getting to know your students, consider prioritizing connections with parents, caregivers, and guardians at the start of the school year. These prompts for a phone call or meeting can help start the school year off right by building positive connections with the school community:

- **Connect to Their Story:** What is a favorite story about your student, so I can get to know them better?
- **Connect to Their Goals:** What are your goals for your student's education? How would you like to be involved and communicate with me?
- **Connect to Their Contribution:** How does your student like to contribute? What brings them joy?

### Additional Engagement Resources

- National Association of Elementary School Principals: [Best Practice: Positive Parent Phone Calls](#)
- KQED: [Building Parent-Teacher Relationships Can Be Hard. Positive Phone Calls Home Can Help](#)
- Learning for Justice on [Family Engagement](#)
- WestEd and CA Dept of Education's [Family Engagement Toolkit](#)

Thank you for your service to students!

In Love and Justice,  
Dr. Williams