

## Parent Engagement Brainstorm

### What would you most like to have parents advocate for?

- The value the Library provides to the community, to provide educational and recreational services that enrich families throughout their lives.
- Parents need to make time in children and their own schedules for reading. Continue reading aloud to children even after they learn to read themselves.
- Would love help bringing families that speak different world languages in to the library
- Active library using parents can be great help in recruiting/encouraging nonusers to come visit. The value of library collections/materials and how easy/free they are to use.
- Would love to have parent advocates in multicultural communities (Spanish speakers, etc.) that could connect those folks to the library.
- Heritage language and culture
- The value of the library, reading together (as well as other early literacy activities) at home, attending & contributing to library programs
- Parent volunteers can advocate as part of a needs assessment. Volunteers can emphasize that the library is open and willing to adapt to the needs of users
- I second the multicultural ambassadors. Personal invitation is so much more welcoming than signage.
- In reaching school age children, collaboration with schools can be facilitated by parents
- I would like to hear parents advocate about how the library is so approachable and inclusive. We don't judge, we meet you where you are. Just coming in to the library with your children is a victory!

### How can you empower them to do so?

- We try to get feedback via surveys and social media. Also get some anecdotal, but would love it shared more widely
- Just ask! Sometimes that's all that people want. I've had several people say, "If I'd only known, I would have!"
- Remove barriers to getting library cards/materials into the hands of parents and children.
- We are working with our local NAACP and its Kids Reads program to help us with locating parent ambassadors.
- We can empower them by asking for their help, providing them with information to share with other families, and THANKING them for their involvement

- Had pretty good success recently asking principals from schools in the area we want to serve to create a meeting where he/she personally invites those parents to attend.
- Asking parents to share their ideas, finding parent leaders in the community/at the library that can advocate.
- Displaying multicultural collections, inviting presenters from the community
- Start a Parent Advisory Board