

What Parents Want: Innovative Ways to Improve Communication and Build Trust in Schools

Co-Sponsored by New America

June 24, 2025



Panelists



Susana Beltrán-Grimm, Ph.D.
LSX Fellow
Assistant Professor,
Applied Developmental
Psychology & Education
Portland State University



Tabitha Marino, Ph.D.
LSX Fellow
Assistant Superintendent
New Castle School District



Yu-Ling Cheng
Director
Kidsburgh and Parents as Allies
Pennsylvania



Tara García Mathewson
LSX Fellow
Investigative Education Reporter
CalMatters and The Markup

Panelists



Scott Miller, Ph.D.
LSX Fellow
Principal
Avonworth Primary Center (K-2)



Erica Slobodnik
LSX Fellow
Principal
Duquesne City Elementary School



Miroslava Rodriguez
LSX Fellow
Co-Founder
Erandi Aprende



Sheila R. Thomas, Ed.D.
LSX Fellow
Founder
Thomas Educational Consulting
and Training

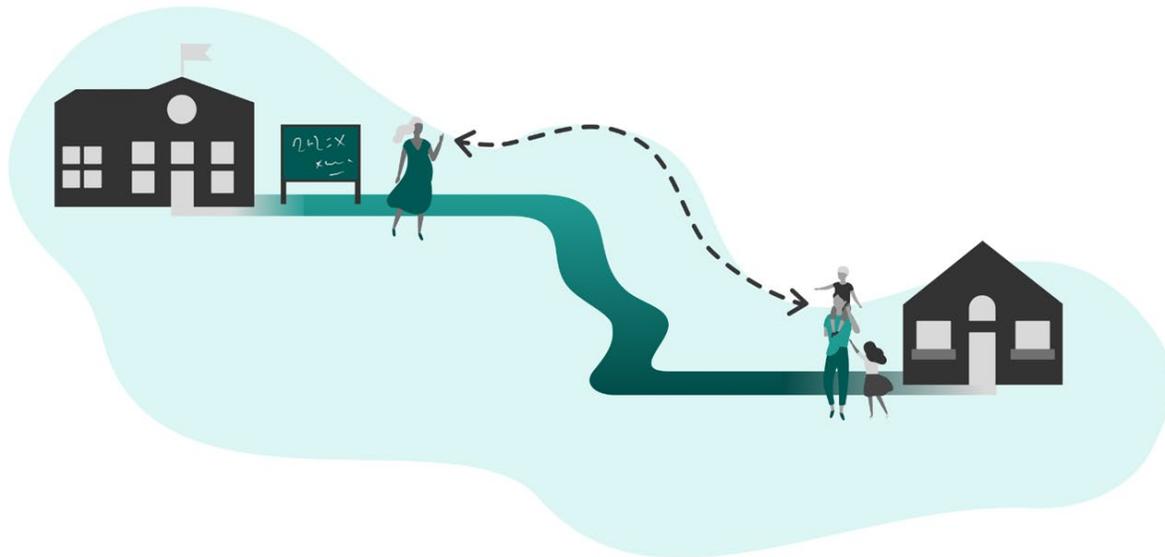
Moderator



Lisa Guernsey
Co-Founder, LSX
Senior Director of Education Policy
New America

What Parents Want

Innovative Ways to Improve
Communication and Build Trust
in Schools



Learning Sciences Exchange



SCIENCE



SYSTEMS



JOURNALISM



ENTERTAINMENT



SOCIAL IMPACT





Erica Slobodnik,
Principal, Duquesne K-8
School



Tabitha Marino,
Asst. Superintendent, New
Castle School District



Scott Miller
Principal, Avonworth
Primary Center



Susana Beltran-Grimm,
Portland State University



Tara Garcia Mathewson,
Freelance reporter



Sheila Thomas, Thomas
Educational Consulting



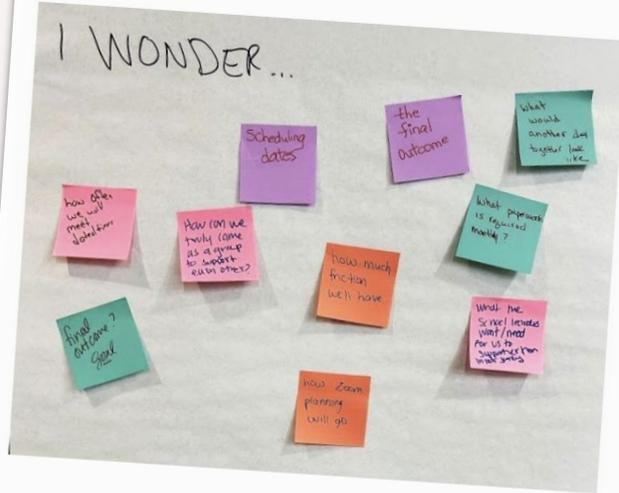
Miroslava Rodriguez,
Erandi Aprende



Designing Tools to Strengthen Communication and Relationships Between Families and Schools

A Look at the Latest Prototypes Developed by the Learning
Sciences Exchange (LSX)

BLOG POST



By **Elise Franchino**

June 9, 2025

For families with elementary school children, life can feel hectic. And for educators managing classrooms of dozens of young students, the same feeling can apply. With so many expectations and so much to communicate on both sides, it isn't always easy to build relationships, let alone create the sense that schools and parents are working in partnership to help young students learn.

What Parents Want: How Policies Can Spur School-to-Family Connections and Build Trust

BRIEF



Natalya Brill/New America

By **Lisa Guernsey, Elise Franchino, Susana Beltrán-Grimm, Sheila R. Thomas, and Miroslava Rodríguez**

June 18, 2025

Helping parents and caregivers feel connected to their children's school may sound as easy as hosting a back-to-school night. But on-the-ground stories from educators and parents show a desire for more. Caregivers all over the country are demanding better communication and more respect for their concerns, and whether that's tied to the parents' rights movement or not, there is mounting research about the benefits of improving school-to-family dynamics.

Fortunately, both schools and families want change. Parents want to be part of the conversation with teachers and school staff in helping their kids succeed, and principals

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With thanks to



**PARENTS
AS ALLIES**



- The staff, administrators, and families at Duquesne Elementary School, Lockley Early Learning Center, and Avonworth Primary Center
- Kristine Malden, Slab Design
- Yu-Ling Cheng, Kidsburgh and Parents as Allies
- Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, LSX Co-Founder
- Roberta Golinkoff, LSX Co-Founder
- The Jacobs Foundation
- The Grable Foundation

Video directed by Elise Franchino, LSX Program Manager



Video



Poll



TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED TEACHING & LEARNING

GLR
Learning
Tuesdays

AI Basics: From Definitions to Deployment

With InnovateEDU

Monday, June 24, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

Smart Start: Leveraging Technology to Detect and Support Learning Differences Early

With Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation

Tuesday, July 1, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

Smart Tools, Stronger Partnerships: Technology for Home Learning and School Connection

With Promise Venture Studios and Springboard

Tuesday, July 8, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

From Skepticism to Enthusiasm:

AI & Emerging Technology's Role in Revolutionizing Teaching & Learning

With Digital Promise

Tuesday, July 15, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

Digital Tools, Real Gains: Enhancing Early Grade Tutoring with Technology

Tuesday, July 22, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

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GLR WEEK 2025 JUL 28-AUG 1

Monday, July 28

- 12:30pm ET – **A Virtual Gratitude Reception — From A to Z: CGLR Salutes Aquariums & Zoos**
- 3pm ET – **Guardrails & Guidelines on Tech for Well-Being & Literacy Development**

Tuesday, July 29

- 12:30pm ET – **Starting Early to Boost Success: State Investments in Early Alignment & Accountability**
- 3pm ET – **Building the Workforce for Tutoring: Emerging Options and Strategies**

Wednesday, July 30

- 12:30pm ET – **Reducing Chronic Absence: Promising Signals From Colorado & Virginia**
- 3pm ET – **Disproportionate Impact Magnified: Rural America's Children & Families as Collateral Damage?**

Thursday, July 31

- 12:30pm ET – **From Struggling to Stability: Elevating the Prospects of ALICE Families**
- 3pm ET – **Parents as Curators of Their Children's Education: Balancing Choice, Equity, & Accountability**