During Spring and Summer 2020, Flamboyan asked educators, “What do you need from your administrators to build and strengthen partnerships with families during distance learning?” Their responses highlighted a diversity of experience alongside a shared desire for intentional support during these uncertain times.

Many teachers shared positive feedback for the support received at their school. These appreciations emerged as a primary theme from teachers. Teachers highlighted examples of support such as administrators holding weekly virtual staff meetings, effectively communicating essential and changing information, and simply having personal check-in conversations with each team member.

Educators elevated the request that leaders ensure teachers have early, shared access to information communicated to and from families. Teachers suggested that principals set up standing office hours in addition to holding regular schoolwide meetings and teacher-led office hours, with one teacher simply saying, “Continue to reach out and keep us all on the same page!”

Teachers expressed the need for complete, updated phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses for families. Some expressed concerns about the lack of systems for regularly maintaining these data, and called for urgency to address it during a time when families are more transient and contact information may change more frequently. Teachers want administrators to invest resources in the technical maintenance of contact information because missing or inaccurate information creates a barrier to consistent family engagement. Several teachers suggested engaging non-classroom educators to support ongoing communication with families because the volume of weekly calls was “daunting” and often occurred well outside of the traditional school day.
LEADERS play an essential role in creating conditions for REAL Family Engagement in schools, school systems, and communities. Teachers elevate their needs. Leaders have an opportunity to support teachers and shape meaningful family engagement. As the year progresses, continue to look to Flamboyan Foundation to support you in your REAL Family Engagement efforts.

- Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.
- Sign-up to receive our newsletter.
- Be on the lookout for new resources on http://www.FlamboyanFoundation.org

Questions? Reach us at Communications@FlamboyanFoundation.org

Leaders play an essential role in creating conditions for REAL Family Engagement in schools, school systems, and communities. Teachers elevate their needs. Leaders have an opportunity to support teachers and shape meaningful family engagement. As the year progresses, continue to look to Flamboyan Foundation to support you in your REAL Family Engagement efforts.