



Powerful Partnerships: Families, Communities, and Educators

OEO offers workshops focused on establishing collaborative, productive school-family relationships. These workshops are presented in several versions to accommodate different audience needs, time limitations, and community interests, and can range from 1 hour to a full day.

Audience: All of these workshops are appropriate for families and community organizations. Workshop modules with content for educators are noted. Clock hours can be arranged.

Brief Workshop: 1 hour

Introduction to OEO and any one module below (simplified content and activities)

Intermediate Workshop Options: 2 hours

- OEO Introduction and Family Partnerships: Advocacy and Engagement (*appropriate for educators, as well as families & community groups*) – 2 hours
- OEO Introduction and How School Systems Work – 2 hours
- OEO Introduction and Home-School-Home Communication – 2 hours

Half-Day Workshop Options: 2 ½ - 3 hours

- OEO Introduction and How School Systems Work and Home-School-Home Communication - 3 hours
- OEO Introduction and How School Systems Work and Family Partnerships: Advocacy and Engagement – 3 hours
- OEO Introduction and Home-School-Home Communication and Family Partnerships: Advocacy and Engagement – 3 hours
- OEO Introduction and Family Partnerships: Advocacy and Engagement and Cultural Competence (**this workshop is more relevant to community organizations and educators than families*) – 2 ½ -3 hours

Full-Day Workshop: 4-5 hours plus time allotted for breaks for participants

This comprehensive workshop is intended for families and community organizations and covers all of the topics (e.g., OEO Introduction and Family Partnerships: Advocacy and Engagement, How School Systems Work, and Home-School-Home Communication), except the Cultural Competence module.

Additional details about these modules are provided below:

Introduction to the Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) (for families, community organizations & educators)

- Who we are
- What we do and how we do it, including our online resources and website
- Core beliefs

Family Partnerships: Advocacy and Engagement (for families, community organizations & educators)

- Family engagement research and best practices for family-school-community collaboration
- Strategies for creating inclusive and welcoming environments for every family (e.g., bilingual, LEP, families of color, families with disabilities, families providing kinship care)
- Honoring home culture and access through interpretation and translation

Cultural Competence (for educators & community organizations)

- Personal reflection exercise (focused on perceptions, biases, and attributes)
- Family engagement research: focus on LEP and bilingual families
- Comparative educational approaches: U.S. and other nations
- Home/school culture activity (assumptions, expectations, food, greetings)
- Intercultural communication
- Relationship-building school events

How School Systems Work (for families & community organizations)

- Education advocacy
- Washington's schools – an overview of the system
- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Basic educational rights of students in Washington
- Organization of school districts: Local control and school boards
- The Superintendent's role in school districts
- Public Information – parents' rights to student records

Home-School-Home Communication (for families & community organizations)

- Communication strategies
- Home-School cultural activity (greetings, time, meeting spaces)
- Multiple perspectives and perspective-taking
- Creating relationships
- Positive communication skills
- Conflict resolution strategies
- Goal setting/clarification
- Meeting preparation and maintaining student records to support communication efforts
- Chain of command – steps towards conflict resolution