

# Illinois 5Essentials Survey

## Tips for **Boosting Parent Participation**

### Make it **convenient**

- ✓ Schedule school events to coincide with the dates for parent participation in the survey.
- ✓ Have iPads/Chromebooks at events and remind parents to participate.
- ✓ Give families in the drop-off/pick-up line a flyer that has a QR code link to the survey.

**"We have parent-teacher conferences around that time every year, so they can fill out the survey while they're waiting. If we have an event coming up, we'll announce it there too."**

— Katie Varner, Director Curriculum, Assessment, and PD  
Coolidge Middle School  
(South Holland SD 151)



### Make it **fun**

- ✓ Host a competition by grade level or classroom. Reward the highest parent participation rate with a homework waiver or extra recess.
- ✓ Announce a goal, chart progress, and share a leader board each week.
- ✓ Work with community partners to offer incentives.

**"This was big! We'd get a big influx of responses when I said we are so close to our goal, and we need five more families to fill it out. Then when we hit our goal, we said, let's try a new goal!"**

— Lindsay Record, Parent Liaison  
Wilcox Elementary



### Be **persistent**

- ✓ Focus on two-way communication like text or email from teachers to generate more involvement.
- ✓ Share messages repeatedly through Robo-text, newsletter, website, ClassDojo, Google Classroom, etc. Have coaches nudge parents on TeamSnap.

**"We asked all our staff to share the link, and especially coaches on TeamSnap. Our first attempt only got 16 percent response. If we had stopped there, we would've only had 16 percent!"**

— Julie Jackson, Teacher  
Lincoln Community High School 404



### Make it **meaningful**

- ✓ Provide follow-up to demonstrate the impact. Show parents you heeded the insights provided by the survey. Remind them this year is even more important, because their participation counts in the district's Equity Journey Continuum.

**"Every year, on a certain day teachers say, 'No homework for you, but your parents have 5E homework tonight.' The whole school assigns in the Learning Management System, and the students get to give their parents homework."**

— Janelle Raine, Principal  
Ridge Circle Elementary (U-46)



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