



ISBN: 9781071978887



What is especially impressive about this book is the **relentless focus on student success**. The strategies are practical, the vignettes are authentic, and the evidence is compelling. This is a book not merely to be read, but to be studied and discussed in community-wide forums.

Douglas Reeves

International Keynote, Researcher,
Author, and Founder at Creative
Leadership Solutions



Empowered Families, Thriving Students

Unlocking the Potential of Family-School Partnerships

Washington Collado, Alex Marrero, and Belinda Reyes

Family engagement has never been more critical to student achievement, yet too many schools remain stuck in outdated models that treat families as occasional visitors rather than essential partners. Authored by three seasoned and celebrated school leaders, this practical book challenges educators to move beyond traditional “meetings and meals” approaches toward authentic family empowerment that drives meaningful change.

Introducing an innovative framework to reimagine family and community engagement, *Empowered Families, Thriving Students* addresses critical topics including overcoming deficit-based mindsets, establishing trust, building community partnerships, and reimagining traditional practices like parent-teacher conferences. Additional features include

- Fourteen implementable strategies, each supported by clear action steps and self-analysis questions
- Authentic vignettes drawn from the authors’ extensive experiences in PreK–2 schools across diverse communities
- Evidence-based approaches that combine nationally recognized research with compelling personal experiences
- A focus on equity and cultural responsiveness that specifically address the needs of schools serving low-income and multilingual students

This exceptional guide provides school leaders, teachers, and community advocates with the essential tools to forge meaningful collaboration that focuses relentlessly on student achievement and wellbeing, creating stronger schools and more vibrant communities.