**PTHV Week Proclamation – Model Language**

**WHEREAS,** family engagement is an opportunity to transform schools. Studies reveal that parent involvement in a child’s education is a significant factor in student success – twice as predictive as family socioeconomic status. It leads to higher test scores and graduation rates, increased motivation and self-esteem, and lower rates of suspension and chronic absenteeism.

**WHEREAS,** schools that succeed in engaging diverse families build trusting, collaborative relationships among teachers, families, and community; recognize, respect, and address families’ needs and differences; and embrace shared power and responsibility.

**WHEREAS,** schools with strong levels of trust with families have a greater chance in making significant improvements in reading, math, and social-emotional learning competencies while schools with little or no trust have practically no chance of improving.

**WHEREAS,** many schools continue to struggle engaging families as equal partners. Deficit mindsets, negative assumptions, and implicit biases often negatively influence home-school communication, thereby squelching the known benefits of effective family engagement.

**WHEREAS,** in 1998,parents from a low-income neighborhood used community-organizing principles of empowerment to develop a strategy that interrupts a cycle of blame between parents and teachers for low student achievement. The resulting Parent Teacher Home Visits model was refined and successfully piloted in eight Sacramento, California schools with the goal of building productive partnerships centered on trust and mutual accountability. Today, the model is implemented in 700 communities across 28 states and Washington, DC, as well as in the province of Saskatchewan, Canada.

**WHEREAS,** rigorous research has proven that Parent Teacher Home Visits strengthen family-school partnerships, shift mindsets and disrupt implicit biases, decrease chronic absenteeism, and increase proficiency on standardized English Language Arts exams when systematically implemented at a school site.

**WHEREAS,** Parent Teacher Home Visits produces these transformational results through high-quality implementation of its five core practices:

1. Visits are voluntary for all and scheduled in advance.
2. Educators are trained and compensated for visits outside of the school day.
3. The focus of the first visit is relationship-building; educators and families discuss hopes and dreams.
4. There is no targeting; visits occur with all or a cross-section of students, so there is no stigma.
5. Educators conduct visits in pairs and, after the visits, reflect with their partners.

**WHEREAS,**[school district name] embraces high-impact family engagement efforts. Parents and families are valued as co-educators and respected for the skills, assets, and experience they bring to the education of their children.

**WHEREAS,** [school district name] specifically endorses Parent Teacher Home Visits as an evidence-based family engagement strategy, given its emphasis on building authentic, trusting relationships.  Since [year], [number of home visits] home visits have been successfully conducted by trained educators across [number of schools] [school district name] sites.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that [official name of governing body] stands with districts across the nation in declaring the week of September 19-24, 2022 as “Parent Teacher Home Visits Week.” We hereby commit to supporting the sustainability and growth of a strong home visit practice so that more of our students, families, and educators can realize the full benefit that the model offers. We recognize that, to cultivate effective partnerships that support student and school improvement, we must not only build the capacity of educators and families to engage in true collaboration but ensure that system conditions are addressed in a way that promotes long-term success. It is our goal that, through Parent Teacher Home Visits Week activities and support, we [Enter goal(s) here. Examples include conducting # home visits during the designated time period, increasing visits by #% compared to the previous year, etc.].

Specifically, we will: [List how your district intends to celebrate Parent Teacher Home Visits Week and recognize participating families and educators. Below are examples that can be adapted to your local community and home visit practice.

* Promote Parent Teacher Home Visits as a proven approach to family engagement through strategies such as sharing stories of impact via school and district communication channels, engaging local media to spotlight the practice, and participating in home visits.
* Celebrate educators and families participating in Parent Teacher Home Visits, including recognition at board meetings and through district communication channels, issuing Hopes and Dreams certificates, and incentivizing increased participation during Parent Teacher Home Visits Week.
* Ensure that educators who learn about and become interested in building relationships of trust with families through Parent Teacher Home Visits are afforded the opportunity to become trained home visitors.
* Measure and evaluate the impact of our home visit practice both during Parent Teacher Home Visits Week and beyond using both qualitative and quantitative data. Results will be shared with stakeholders and will be used to inform continuous improvement of our practice.
* Allocate adequate funding and human resources to support attainment of our stated Parent Teacher Home Visits Week goal(s).
* Leverage the excitement and momentum built through Parent Teacher Home Visits Week to engage stakeholders in collaboratively planning and executing a long-term plan to sustain and expand our home visit practice to [Enter future goal(s) here. Examples include # of new sites, # of newly trained educators, # of students receiving a home visit, etc.] by [Enter a time period/date].