



COMPACT TOOL #10:

REVIEW, REVISE AND CELEBRATE

This tool contains a series of short survey questions for families about their view of the compact, plus some ideas for revising and celebrating your compacts.

Review:

To find out what parents think of the compact and get their ideas for next year, consider holding some focus groups. Pull a few parents into small groups during a celebration, learning activity, PTA/PTO meeting, parent-teacher conferences, celebration or other event. Try to make sure that the groups together represent the diversity of your families. Keeping the groups small (10-12 people) makes it less intimidating, so participants feel free to speak up.

Ask a series of questions like these and chart the results:

- What do you like about the School-Family Compact for our school?
- How did you use the compact?
- In what ways was it helpful?
- What do you think would make it better?
- What advice do you have about how to make it better?
- What should we do with the compact next year?

Asking these questions in small groups rather than in a written survey allows for discussion and the exchange of ideas and experiences. In settings like these, relationships develop, volunteers step up, and leaders emerge. Remember, it's all about the conversations!

Revise:

Look at your school improvement plan to make sure the compact is up-to-date with any changes in goals and priorities. Are the skill areas you identified still current? Update these, with help from the data teams.

Check the cover and other contents. Are they current? Revise the list of staff and add new events and activities, as needed.

When a new School Improvement Plan is written, usually every 2-3 years, then it's time to develop an entirely new School-Family Compact.

Celebrate:

You've done a lot of work to revitalize your old compact. Take an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate those involved. Ending the year on a positive note will help build momentum for next year.

Every June, the Middletown school district holds a dinner party for the school compact teams to celebrate the highlights of the school year, called "Grow and Glow." Teams of teachers, parents, and community members dine and share their successes. Each school does a display and presentation about their School-Family Compacts and what happened as a result and how they will improve next year.



For example, Bielefield Elementary School reported on hosting an “Estimation Night” to address the district’s low CMT scores on math estimation. The school’s compact included grade-level family learning activities to strengthen estimation skills.

Many schools reported interesting activities to support their reading goals. For Example:

- Students dressed as their favorite character on Book Character Day, held to highlight the goals of the 4th grade compact.
- Family Funny Reading Night on April Fools Day – a great use of marketing, humor and having fun, tied to school goals around reading

Communications with families were another popular topic. For example:

- Teachers surveyed parents about what they needed at home to support learning, then structured activities for families around these responses
- PTA holds some “Chat and Chew” meetings during the day to reach ELL parents

This is a wonderful way to share ideas and convey the importance of engaging families to the quality of the school district. It brings closure at the end of a job well done, and it renews energy for the coming year.