



COMPACT TOOL #1-A:

TEN STEPS TO SUCCESS FOR DEVELOPING SCHOOL-FAMILY COMPACTS

1. Motivate and Get Buy-in from the Staff

- At a staff meeting with teachers and members of the school leadership team, explain what compacts are and how they can contribute to student success.

2. Designate a Leader to Build a Team

- Pick the best person for your school: principal, assistant principal, literacy and math coaches, teacher leader, home-school coordinator, or other person with leadership skills.

3. Align Compact with the School Improvement Plan Goals

- Review and analyze school-wide data and the goals of the school improvement plan to determine specific skill areas the compact should focus on for the year, by grade-level.

4. Get Input from Each Grade Level

- At data team meetings, ask teachers to identify three goals for each grade level and draft some ideas for home learning strategies to share with families for their ideas and input.

5. Reach Out to Families

- Share the grade level goals with parents/guardians.
- Do this in workshops, orientation events, class meetings, informal get-togethers, PTA/PTO meetings, newsletters, emails, parent nights, report card nights.
- Hold two-way conversations among teachers and families at the different grade levels. How can they work together to accomplish the goals? How can they support each other?
- Co-create specific home learning strategies families can use on a regular basis.

6. Don't Forget the Students

- After the teachers and parents decide how they will collaborate, ask students what they can do to be successful. How do they want their teachers and parents to support them?

7. Pull it All Together

- Create an attractive, family-friendly compact document that captures everyone's input.
- Design a "roll out plan" for introducing the compact to families.

8. Align All Resources

- Based on your compact goals, what professional development do you need?
- Allocate funds to support school and home learning with speakers, supplies, materials.
- Align the work of school volunteers and other community members with the compact.

9. Market the Compact

- Seize the opportunity at every event to keep the goals of the school in the forefront.
- At conference time, discuss the goals and modify strategies with parents.

10. Review, Revise and Celebrate Progress Each Year

- Pull your compact team together toward the end of the year to review progress. What were your big successes? What could have been better?
- Draw up a plan for the process next school year based on your review.
- Ask students to show off what they've learned and how they took responsibility.
- Announce your successes at end-of-the year events and congratulate everyone involved!

Remember: it is all about the conversations!