



GUIDING PRINCIPLES from the
Parent Accountability Council (PAC) of
Early Learning Multnomah (ELM) earlylearning@unitedway-pdx.org

Our hub has a parent council called the PAC. The PAC has twelve parents from the county's largest racial and ethnic communities: African American, African Immigrant, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American and Slavic. We worked together to write guiding principles for our hub. Because our hub follows these five principles we know we will see positive changes in our county.

Principle #1. We have a **priority population** – This means we focus on children who are called “at risk” but who are really “full of promise”.

Some families face racism and discrimination. Some families live in poverty.

We say: We want all children to thrive.

Principle #2. We work for **equity** – This means we make the invisible visible.

Families with language and cultural barriers end up isolated. So find teachers and staff who are from our communities. Welcome us into the schools with respect. Be kind. We have ideas that you need to see and hear.

We say: We are here. We are all equal. See us. Respect us.

Principle #3. We are **parent-centered** – This means there is nothing done about us, without us.

Understand what it's like to be a parent. Get to know us. Partner with us to see the success of our children. Hear our needs before you proceed.

We say: We are raising the children. We are your best resource.

Principle #4. We create **family engagement** – This means we support the family to support the child.

We want to educate ourselves so we can move our communities forward. Follow through with commitments to parents. Start early. Don't wait until problems get big. Prevention is as important as intervention.

We say: Support us as we take care of our children. Meet us where we are.

Principle #5. We build **system coordination** – This means we all work together to partner with families.

We want better communication between parents and schools. Schools should be partners with community agencies and parents. Learn from programs that work well in our communities. Use our wisdom. We want to work together.

We say: Talk to us. And talk to each other. It takes all of us to make life better for our children.

Thank you.