Effective Collaboration with Families to Support Students with Emotional Disturbance
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**Introduction**
- Parent collaboration is a High Leverage Practice that supports student learning
- Communication, respect, equality, and commitment are identified as key principles of effective family/school partnerships
- Positive parent outcomes (e.g., less stress, greater family quality of life) are reported when partnerships are stronger

**Two-Way Communication**
- Establish ongoing communication to promote an equal partnership (honor communication preferences)
  - Weekly phone calls
  - Daily notes on point sheets
  - Frequent posts on a digital platform

**Shared Decision Making**
- Recognize the value of family voice in decision making and desire to learn from families
  - Lead with empathy when having tough conversations about behavior, academics, or any sensitive topic
- Acknowledge that family input ultimately yields higher quality decisions
  - Provide agenda and data in advance of meetings so parents can prepare questions and feedback
- Share student strengths to build positive momentum for shared decision making
- Provide families with informal and formal opportunities to provide feedback to the school

**Positive Home School Relationships**
- Strong, authentic, and prosperous family/school relationships are the bedrock of school culture efforts
- Recognition that the quality of the family/school relationships mediates the effectiveness of the PBIS model
  - Strategies for building shared responsibility are essential for developing positive partnerships

**Training and Support**
- Help parents take an active role in the IEP process
- Assist parents in establishing age-appropriate expectations and boundaries
- Equip parents with problem-solving skills