



# Family Welcome Questionnaire

\*This document is from the Family Welcome Questionnaire in *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to the Family-School Partnership*

## Purpose

This questionnaire is designed to help school staff learn more about their students' families. *It is important to emphasize that this information will be kept strictly confidential.* These questions are not meant to be all inclusive or exclusive. Many questions suggested here appear in Sabrina Hope Kind and A. Lin Goodwin, *Culturally Responsive Parent Involvement* (Washington, D.C.: American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, 2003).

## When to Use

This can be done when students enroll in the school, at the school open house, at parent-teacher conferences, or at parent activities. This can be done in several steps and places and is not necessarily intended to be done in its entirety during one period of time (i.e. during a conference, at an Open House, etc.).

## How to Use

Although this can be given as a survey to families we *strongly recommend that the questions below be asked face-to-face, rather than in a written survey.* Schools can use this information to inform how to best engage families as well as data to inform next steps in their Family Engagement Plan.

### Suggested script:

Hello (name), our school wants to know more about its families and their rich and interesting cultural heritage. With this information, our school can plan better programs to build on our students' home cultures. We also want to learn more about how families would like to help. Is it alright if we ask you some questions?

Suggested Questions	Response
Please tell us about your cultural background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What languages are spoken in your home?</li> <li>• In what country (or state) were you born?</li> <li>• Tell us about your family's beliefs about the importance of education.</li> <li>• What does your family do to help your children learn?</li> <li>• What are your family's traditions? What activities do you do as a family? How do you celebrate birthdays and other important</li> </ul>	

<p>family events?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is in your extended family (grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, close friends)?</li> </ul>	
<p>How you would like to be involved at home and at school, and what would help you be more involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are some ways you would like to be involved?</li> <li>• What could the school do to help you be more involved?</li> <li>• What are your working hours?</li> <li>• When are the most convenient times for activities and meetings at school?</li> <li>• What are your transportation needs?</li> <li>• What are your hobbies, skills, talents, and interests?</li> </ul>	
<p>Tell us about your concerns, perspective, and ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would you like us to know about your child? What are his/her interests?</li> <li>• What is working well for your child at school? What isn't?</li> <li>• What are some ways you would like school to recognize and teach about your child's culture?</li> <li>• Are there any ways that you feel your culture could be better respected at the school?</li> <li>• Do you have some things that reflect your culture and background that you could share with us (for example, pictures, weavings, carvings, stories, musical instruments, songs traditions naming ceremonies)?</li> <li>• How could you help the school reach out to other families in your community?</li> </ul>	