

# The Prichard Committee

Building a Groundswell for Excellent Education

# Welcome to The Prichard Committee's Interactive Education Conversation Card Deck

## CONVERSATIONS FOR FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

CLICK EACH ICON TO MOVE QUICKLY TO THE START OF THAT SECTION ▼



### EQUITY

Card # 04-29



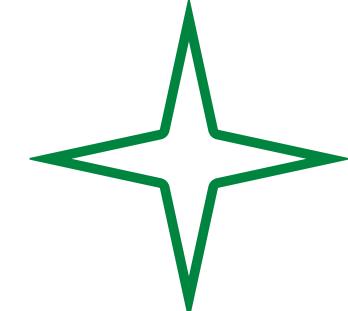
### FAMILIES

Card # 30-55



### SCHOOL

Card # 56-81



### PARENT LEADERSHIP

Card # 82-107

SECTION

◀ CLICK HERE TO MOVE BACK TO THE  
BEGINNING OF THAT SECTION



◀ CLICK HERE TO MOVE FORWARD, BACKWARD AND RETURN  
TO THIS MENU

# Conversation Agreements

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- ✓ Speak from your own experience.
- ✓ Listen well—please give the person speaking your full attention.
- ✓ No judgements—everyone is doing what they can with what they have.
- ✓ Time for everyone—please use the chat box for questions when appropriate.
- ✓ This is a time for thoughtful discussion with the expectation your attendance in the meeting is to have thoughtful conversation.
- ✓ Confidentiality is a must.

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# EQUITY

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How do you know if your child attends an  
“underperforming” school?

How does having conversations about racial injustice  
and equity equate to action?

Why is it important to seek education on issues of race, diversity and culture?

What supports are in place for students with learning disabilities? What supports are in place for families?

What has awareness around issues of race and diversity looked like for you?

How has the digital divide impacted your family?

How do we create more diverse social circles for ourselves and our child?

How do you talk to your children about racism and inequality?

What barriers get in the way of success for every child?

What makes you apprehensive to talk to your child about racism?

How have you or your child experienced implicit bias in the education system? How did you respond?

How can you educate your children about racism, privilege, and power?

How has school culture impacted your thoughts about race or identity?

How does a lack of school resources impact the education your child receives?

What and how do barriers impact Non-Traditional-Instruction or Virtual Learning? (home language, bad connection, technological problems, confusing instructions?)

How do you feel your race or identity has shaped your view of school culture?

How can social-emotional learning help to create a more inclusive school community?

What steps do you take when you witness discrimination?

What opportunities have you taken to advocate for your child? Why do you believe it is important to be an advocate for all children?

What does privilege mean? In what ways might you use your privilege to be an ally for others?

How should racist or discriminatory talk from a teacher, faculty, or parent volunteer be addressed?

Why do you believe conversations about belonging are important, and how does this lead to positive changes?

What strategies can be used to partner with families who do not speak English (English Language Learners)?

What does injustice look like in the classroom and how do you go about changing that?

What role do you feel the school should play in establishing equity for all children?

How has gaining knowledge about an issue of race, identity, or privilege changed your opinion or behavior?

What experience have you had with students being under-represented or over-represented in special education or gifted and talented programs?

In your school, are certain groups of students over or underrepresented, in disciplinary actions?

Do teachers and staff address inequities?

How do families of different races, ethnicities, or cultures perceive the school culture?

What factors may be preventing parents from different races, ethnicities, or cultures from being more engaged in their local district?

How does your school create a sense of belonging for all students and their families?

What does it mean to belong?

How might some groups of students have different experiences at school than others?

What academic achievement gaps might exist between certain groups of students?

How should racist or discriminatory talk from a student be handled within the school system?

What gaps might exist in the social-emotional development of different groups of students?

How might the school attendance and chronic absenteeism rates differ by student group?

How do students with disabilities who need specialized instruction get the support they need through Non-Traditional-Instruction and virtual learning?

How do microaggressions in the school negatively impact family engagement?

How does your school meet the instructional needs of English learners? Are interpreters available to students and families?

How do you engage in open dialogue to identify and address microaggressions in the classroom?

Why is it important to be culturally responsive, and what does that “look like”?

How might microaggressions impact a student?

Do you feel your role as a parent is valued by the school? Why or why not?

What is the best way for schools to help LGBTQ students feel safe?

How do we promote activities geared to engage families?

What is a teacher's role in bullying prevention?

Do your school's anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policies include language specific to sexual orientation and gender identity?

Do you feel the need to hide any aspect of your cultural identity in your school interactions? Why?

# FAMILIES

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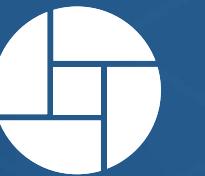
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What does it mean to have realistic, but high expectations of a child?

How do you handle difficult conversations with your child?

What are your dreams for your child and how do you support their passion?

What tools and resources do you need to successfully help your child with schoolwork?

When is it difficult to discipline a child?  
What outcome do you hope is achieved?

What are strategies you use to help your child retain  
the information they learn at school?

How do you know the difference between normal development with your child and when there is cause for concern?

What is your biggest hurdle as a parent right now?

As it relates to student achievement, what is it that families can provide that schools cannot?

What unique strengths does your child have?

How are things different now than when you were in school? How does this affect your parenting?

What educational outcome do you want for your child?

What are some ways you have celebrated your child's accomplishments?

Has there ever been a time you had incorrect information about a school situation? How did you find out? How did that feel?

How have you navigated Non-Traditional Instruction and virtual learning?

How do you help your child face challenges and setbacks?

What do you enjoy doing with your child?

What are ways you have helped your child calm themselves when they are triggered?

What does it mean for your child to be on the path to success?

How do you instill the importance of an education in your child?

How are you able to meet your child's needs when you are stressed?

How do you set clear expectations and limits?

What trustworthy sources of information have you found helpful as a parent?

How do you address a child's social and emotional needs?

When and why is it important to reserve judgement?

How do you encourage open communication with your child?

How does your race or identity influence feelings of empowerment? Strength?

What have you learned about yourself during Non-Traditional-Instruction and virtual learning experiences?

What limitations have you experienced with  
Non-Traditional-Instruction or Virtual Learning?

How do you navigate changing information from  
multiple sources?

What are the benefits of Non-Traditional-Instruction or Virtual Learning for your child?

What does a healthy support system look like for you?

How has Non-Traditional-Instruction and Virtual Learning benefited your parent\child relationship?

What are some ways that you model resiliency for your child?

How do you model healthy relationships for your child?

How do you help your child navigate change?

What healthy boundaries have you set for your family?

How do you help your child with feelings of isolation?

Why do you feel social and emotional learning matters?

What helps you stay positive when life is a struggle?

What is the best parenting advice you have received?

What important lessons have you learned in a crisis?

How do you ensure your child is safe?

What are the most important things happening in your family right now?

When you are stressed, how does that impact your relationship with your child?

Do you set clear expectations with your child regarding their schoolwork?

What are the strengths of your family?

How do you listen to your child without bombarding them with questions?

How do technology challenges impact your family?

What community supports would you recommend to other parents, and why?

# SCHOOL

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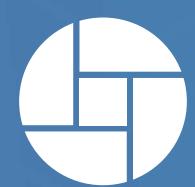
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Are there specific barriers that make it difficult for you to engage at your child's school?

Why is it important for you to connect with your child's teacher?

What strategies do you use to communicate with your child about school?

In what ways does the school support your family in Non-Traditional Instruction or Virtual Learning?

What was your first impression of your child's school? How did you feel?

Why is ongoing school communication important, instead of only connecting if there is a concern?

Do you have positive relationships with other families in your child's school?

What is the best way(s) for the school to communicate with your family?

What has been your family's best school experience?

Why is it important to receive timely information about your child's progress/behavior in school?

What family-engagement activities do you enjoy participating in at the school?

What qualities do you feel an educator needs to have to connect with your child?

What factors do you feel contribute to kids missing too much school (absenteeism and school truancy)?

How does your family benefit from services offered through your child's school?

How does your involvement in school change as your child gets older?

What opportunities have you had to connect with teachers?

What has been your child's best school experience?

What was your school experience like? How do you think that experience impacts the relationship you have with your child's school?

How do you feel when a teacher has judged your child unfairly?

What are the benefits of a positive and welcoming school/school climate)?

How can difficult topics be addressed with others while maintaining healthy relationships?

What school activities does your child seem to enjoy?

What subject matter does your child excel at?  
How do you champion their efforts?

What has been your biggest hurdle with your child's  
educational journey?

What does it mean for your child's teacher to be approachable?

How do lived experiences set the tone for school engagement?

Who has been your biggest ally in the school?  
How did they assist you?

What is the difference between shaming a student  
and encouraging better work or behavior?

How important is a good student-teacher relationship? Why?

How important is it to have connections with other families in the school?

What attributes do you think are important for a principal?

What does a healthy relationship look like between a teacher and a family?

What assumptions prevent family-school connections?

What ways can the school better support your child's  
Non-Traditional-Instruction or Virtual Learning?

What opportunities does the school have for families to get to know one another and build positive relationships?

How does the school promote two-way communication?

What are the unintended consequences when a student does not receive the support they need?

What does being an informed parent mean to you?

What are you most concerned about right now, concerning your child's education?

What school success or challenge is your child experiencing?

How does your home environment impact your child's ability to focus on schoolwork?

What role does 2-way communication play in helping you adapt and cope with change?

How do you help your child set up a schedule for doing schoolwork? Why is this important?

When is it difficult to approach a teacher about a concern regarding your child? What would make it easier?

How is family\child learning linked with family engagement experiences?

How could your school be more transparent?

How do you feel when confronted with unfamiliar language, abbreviations, or school jargon?

How could the school and your family become allies working together toward the same goals?

How do you help your child solve their own problems at school? When do you know your involvement is needed?

Describe an experience where you felt intimidated at your child's school.

# PARENT LEADERSHIP

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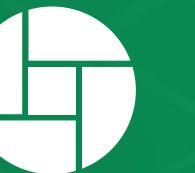
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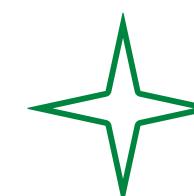
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What do you do when your child is struggling with a particular teacher or administrator?

Why is it important to see a situation from different perspectives?



What are the most important lessons you have learned as a parent in the school system?

What do you do when your child confides in you about an uncomfortable school situation?



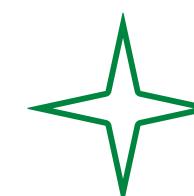
What do you do when you do not understand what is going on with your child?

How have you advocated to get services your child needs?



What steps have you taken to access services your child needs?

What school personnel have you encountered, and how have they helped?

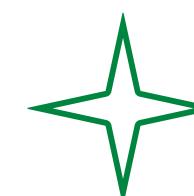


PARENT LEADERSHIP



What strategies do you use to get the attention  
of\or support from the school?

What is the difference between responding and  
reacting to something your child tells you  
happened at school?

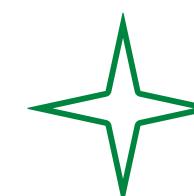


PARENT LEADERSHIP



When is it most difficult to keep your cool as a parent?

When you have big concerns at the school, who do you go to first? Why?



Do you know how to follow the chain of command in the school? What does that look like?

In what ways have you advocated for your child at school?



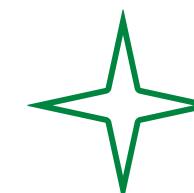
How can families empower educators who teach our most vulnerable students?

How do you teach your child to speak up for themselves, and still be respectful?



What is the connection between school spending and educational outcomes?

How do families “weigh in” on the state’s education plan?



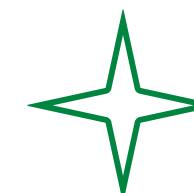
What does it mean for every child to receive a strong start?

What programs in your child's school need additional support? How can you advocate for these programs?



When is compromise necessary?

Why is it important to stay engaged in your child's school from Pre-K to high school graduation?

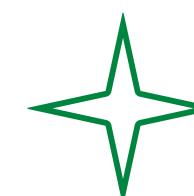


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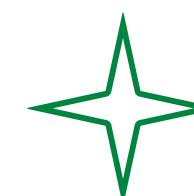
How can we foster supportive learning environments through community partners?

What do you do when your child is struggling with a Non-Traditional-Instruction or Virtual Learning assignment?



How can you create and foster meaningful conversations to improve school performance?

How can you promote equity starting with who you are and what you have to offer?



How do you overcome barriers in the face of opposition?

How do we engage families as partners in discussing and promoting social-emotional learning?



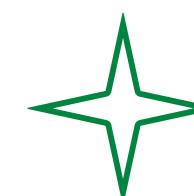
What are your areas of interests, passions, skills, and abilities that you could offer at the school?

What hopes and dreams do you have for your children and the children in your community?



What role does student voice play in your school system?

What does it look like to meet parents “where they are”?



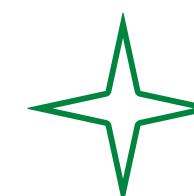
PARENT LEADERSHIP



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What role does self-doubt play in advocating for your child?

How can families play a role in school decision making?

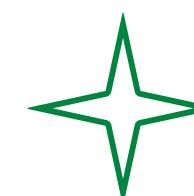


PARENT LEADERSHIP



What qualities do you look for in a school administrator?

How can authentic partnership enable families and school staff to see themselves as equals on the same team?



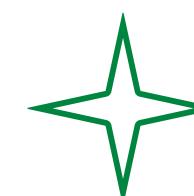
What practices could we adopt to break down the us-versus-them mentality between teachers and families?

Does your school acknowledge the challenges and hardships families face?



What roles do families play in school decision making?

Do you see yourself as a parent leader? Why or why not?



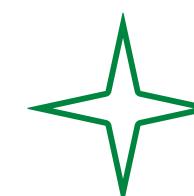
Why is it important to have school staff who represent students and their culture?

How are assessments designed to promote learning rather than simple measurement?



How are students assigned to Response to Intervention (RTI)? How does this affect students with disabilities?

What would you like your school to know about family engagement?



Why are parent-teacher conferences important?  
What role should families play?

How can you expand your sphere of influence  
within your community?



What information should families have before scheduling an ARC (Admissions and Release Committee) meeting?

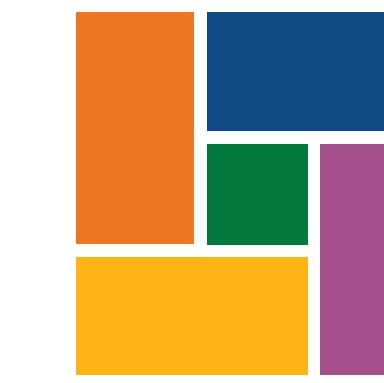
Why should school decisions be influenced by student voice?



If your child's school is a boat, where are you on the boat and what are you doing?

How do you engage in a dialogue that values differing perspectives and builds a positive school culture?





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