

# Helms Middle School—North West Contra Costa USD

Location:  North  Central  South

County: Contra Costa County

Demographics: Suburban with typical urban school characteristics

**Exemplar Area:**  
Family Engagement

**Contact:**  
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**Strengths:**

- Have done the research and asked the questions, and willing to share

**Struggles:**

- Finding the time to plan workshops
- Attendance at the workshops

**Summary:**

Helms Middle School developed a 5-week workshop series to provide families with tools and strategies to increase learning at home. Each workshop focused on a different subject area and was linked to learning. All workshops were relational and interactive and provided opportunities for collaboration between parents and school staff. To overcome struggles, planning time was used and teachers were compensated for work completed outside regular work day. To help with attendance the school used telephone messages, promoted at other school events, as well as targeted outreach.

**Advice for Success:**

1. Implement the process conditions gradually. Look at current family engagement plans and add in relational activities where possible.
2. Try new strategies in terms of family engagement.