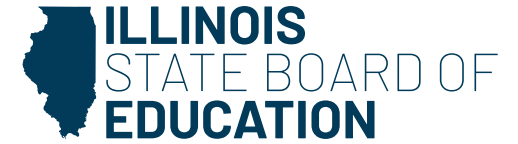


# Illinois 5Essentials Survey

## Tips for **Boosting Parent Participation**

\*Parent Participation from SY 2021



### Make it **convenient**

- ✓ Schedule school events to coincide with the dates for parent participation in the survey.
- ✓ Have technology at events and main office to remind parents to participate.
- ✓ Give families a flyer with a QR code link to the survey during drop-off/pick-up.
- ✓ Train community partners, faith-based organizations to support families in filling out the survey.
- ✓ Use home visits as an opportunity for families to complete the survey.

**"We have parent-teacher conferences around that time every year, so they can fill out the survey while they're waiting. If we have an event coming up, we'll announce it there too."**

— Katie Varner, Director  
Coolidge Middle School  
(South Holland SD 151)

### Make it **fun**

- ✓ Host a competition by grade level or classroom. Reward the highest parent participation rate with a homework waiver or extra recess.
- ✓ Announce a goal, chart progress, and share a leader board each week.
- ✓ Work with community partners to offer incentives.
- ✓ Create an event for families to complete the survey while providing childcare and fun activities for the children.

**"This was big! We'd get a big influx of responses when I said we are so close to our goal, and we need five more families to fill it out. Then when we hit our goal, we said, let's try a new goal!"**

— Lindsay Record, Parent Liaison  
Wilcox Elementary

### Be **persistent**

- ✓ Focus on two-way communication like text or email from teachers to generate more involvement.
- ✓ Use communication tools to share messages repeatedly.
- ✓ Ask local businesses, agencies, community partners and faith-based organizations to post flyers with QR codes and communicate the importance of 5Es to families.
- ✓ Ensure that communication is sent out in families' preferred language.

**"We asked all our staff to share the link, and especially coaches on TeamSnap. Our first attempt only got 16 percent response. If we had stopped there, we would've only had 16 percent!"**

— Julie Jackson, Teacher  
Lincoln Community High School 404

### Make it **meaningful**

- ✓ Provide follow-up to demonstrate the impact. Show parents you heeded the insights provided by the survey. Remind them their participation counts in the district's Equity Journey Continuum.
- ✓ Host community forums to celebrate areas of strength and gather input for areas of improvement.
- ✓ Collaborate with families to create Family Engagement and School Improvement plans utilizing the 5E data.

**"Every year, on a certain day teachers say, 'No homework for you, but your parents have 5E homework tonight.' The whole school assigns in the Learning Management System, and the students get to give their parents homework."**

— Janelle Raine, Principal  
Ridge Circle Elementary (U-46)

