

School code: _____ Interviewer: _____

PARENT FOCUS GROUP PROTOCOL

- 1. For turnaround schools: We are visiting this school because it has demonstrated important gains in academic outcomes. Were you aware of this improvement? Who or what do think was responsible for the change?**

For comparison schools: We are visiting this school because it has engaged in school improvement efforts. Were you aware of such efforts? Who or what do you think was responsible for initiating these efforts?

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- 2. What grades are your children in? Over what period have any of your children attended the school?**

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- 3. In general, how do you feel about the school? Has your impression changed over time? If so, what caused the change?**

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- 4. Since the time when your first child attended the school, have you noticed any changes in the school? If so, please describe them.**

[Probe: How teachers and principals work—or do not work—with parents, student work, teacher quality instruction, physical plant.]

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- 5. To what extent are you involved in school activities? Do you believe you are welcome in the school? Do you believe you have input into school goals?**

[Probe: classroom activities, PTA, school improvement team, other volunteer activities.]

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- 6. Do you think school personnel encourage parents to get involved? If yes, can you give an example of how parents are encouraged?**

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- 7. How do you learn about school accomplishments, challenges, or failures? What information is presented?**

[Probe: Does the principal communicate regularly with parents? If so, how (telephone calls, regular newsletters or letters, e-mail or e-letters)? Do teachers communicate with parents regularly? If so, how (telephone calls, regular newsletters or letters, e-mail or e-letters)?

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- 8. What is the school's reputation in the district? Does this differ from other**

schools in the district? If so, how?

9. Is there anything else I should know to tell the story of the school's improvement efforts?
