**FOCUS GROUP GUIDE FOR PARENTS**

NOTE: Focus groups with a sample of parents/guardians of students participating in School Turnaround AmeriCorps will be conducted in winter 2016 at select schools.

1. Please tell us your first name, the grade your child attends at school, and how long you’ve been part of this school community.
2. How many of you are aware of the (new) School Turnaround AmeriCorps program at this school? The AmeriCorps program here is coordinated by [FILL IN GRANTEE ORGANIZATION’S NAME HERE] and is called [INSERT LOCAL PROGRAM NAME].

*If no one is aware of the program, ask questions 10a, 10b and 10c, then end the focus group.*

1. For those who are aware of it, how did you first hear about the program [LOCAL PROGRAM NAME]? Do you continue to hear about the program or receive any information from the program?
2. Have your children participated in the program this school year (2015-16)?
3. What program activities have your children taken part in this year? (Please describe.)
4. What have your children told you about the program, and how do they feel about the program?
5. Have you been involved at all with the program? (In what ways?) How do you interact with the program, if at all?
6. Since your children started participating in the program, have you become more involved in the school? If so, how?
7. What changes have you noticed, if any, since your children started participating in the program (for example, information sent to you from the school, your child’s homework, academic performance, the way the school feels (school climate))?
8. Do you have any feedback or comments about the program, either positive or negative?

1. Now I will read several statements about this school. For each statement, please raise your hand to indicate whether you strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree, or don’t know.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Strong Disagree** | **Disagree** | **Agree** | **Strongly Agree** | **Don’t Know** |
| **a.** Teachers and leaders at my child’s school care about my child’s academic performance. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **b.** Teachers and leaders at my child’s school care about my child’s social and emotional well-being. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **c.** Families play an active role in our school. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **d.** AmeriCorps members (*or local name)* provide helpful support to the students in this school. |  |  |  |  |  |
| e. AmeriCorps members *(or local name)* are important partners in improving student outcomes. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **f.** AmeriCorps activities occur frequently enough to be valuable. |  |  |  |  |  |

1. On a scale of 1-4 where “1” is “Very successful” and “4” is “Very unsuccessful,” what is your perception of the overall success of the School Turnaround AmeriCorps program (*or use local name throughout)* in terms of how successful it is in helping the school improve in general? (*By show of hands.)*

 Options: 1=Very successful, 2=Somewhat successful, 3 = Somewhat unsuccessful, 4 = Very unsuccessful, Don’t Know

1. What is your perception of the School Turnaround AmeriCorps program’s success in improving student academic achievement? (*By show of hands.)*

Options: 1=Very successful, 2=Somewhat successful, 3 = Somewhat unsuccessful, 4 = Very unsuccessful, Don’t Know

1. What is your perception of the School Turnaround AmeriCorps program’s success in improving student social and emotional health? (*By show of hands.)*

Options: 1=Very successful, 2=Somewhat successful, 3 = Somewhat unsuccessful, 4 = Very unsuccessful, Don’t Know

1. What is your perception of the School Turnaround AmeriCorps program’s success in improving school climate (for example, the school’s safety and physical appearance, staff attitudes and school culture, and the general atmosphere and instructional and disciplinary environment)? (*By show of hands.)*

Options: 1=Very successful, 2=Somewhat successful, 3 = Somewhat unsuccessful, 4 = Very unsuccessful, Don’t Know

1. Is there anything else you’d like to share today about this school or the program [LOCAL PROGRAM NAME]? Do you have any suggestions for improvements?