Engaging Families in College Readiness

Suzanne Bouffard
Harvard Graduate School of Education
Families and self-regulation

- Responsibility for learning
  - Doable and appropriate during adolescence

- Parents can support self-regulation with:
  - Dedicated space and time for homework
  - Teaching time management
  - Asking questions about what they are learning and how it applies to real life
Families and identity

- Parents need to see their children as college-goers

- Identity conflicts
  - Help students and families navigate identity conflicts and find a balance
  - Be informed about families’ needs and concerns
  - Show families that you value their assets
Principles for family engagement

- Assume mutual responsibility
- Build trust
- Focus on families’ assets
- Don’t be color or culture blind
Strategies

- Communicate, don’t just give information
- Invite families to be involved in events – often!
- Connect families with each other - networks
- Encourage parent-child conversations