

Natural Leaders

Building Equitable Family Engagement

Empowered Families

- Serve as multi-cultural bridges between schools, students, and families. They reflect the diversity of their communities.
- Become change leaders equipped with knowledge and skills that uplift themselves and their community.

District/School Role

- Build and sustain the program by recruiting parent volunteers.
- Provide support to Natural Leaders at their schools by providing them with spaces to meet, resources, etc.
- Collaborate with WABS to implement the program at multiple schools.

"Being part of Natural Leaders has helped me realized the importance of being in connection with our community and the schools. Many parents are not sure how to be involved, we as Natural Leaders are here to give those families voice and help them find their place in the school and community."

-Diana Martin, Everett Natural Leader

About Natural Leaders Program

Natural Leaders is a family-centered, family-led program that serves the unique needs of each school community.

Family engagement correlates with higher student achievement in education. The WABS Natural Leaders Program uses an asset-based model to help families identify and cultivate the skills necessary to help overcome systemic barriers. Families then engage with community, school, and students to implement culturally appropriate and effective partnerships between home and school leading to student success

HOW IT WORKS

- A Training Academy is held multiple times a year and provides training that leads to the creation of a vision and action plan.
- Parents become empowered by these trainings and can share what they have learned with other families and communities
- Teachers and staff learn ways to be more inclusive of intercultural families by listening and honoring the ideas and leadership of these families.
- Districts collaborate with Natural Leaders to provide space for natural leaders to build community and have access to resources needed

HOW TO GET STARTED

- Designate a School Lead at the school(s) where the program will get started. This can be an individual (e.g. Family Advocate, ELL Teacher, Counselor etc) or a team (e.g. Equity Team).
- The School Lead recruits parents that represent those from underserved populations.
- Parents/Family members receive Natural Leaders training from WABS staff and/or Natural Leaders Mentors. This can be done at individual schools or as a district.
- Staff attends training provided by WABS on partnering with families and equitable family engagement.

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