

# Engaging and working with the community

## What is it?

School leaders embracing inclusion and building a culture of high expectations that takes account of the richness and diversity of the wider school community and the education systems and sectors. They develop and maintain positive partnerships with students, families and carers and all those associated with the wider school community.

## Why engage and work with the community?

Creates an inclusive outward-facing organisation.

Builds trust across the school community.

Inspires and challenge others to enhance and enrich the learning experience for all students and their families.

Responds to community needs and cultural diversity to embed a culture of inclusion and high-expectations for all.



### Engaging and working with the community is most effective when:

- There are high aspirations for learning that inspire staff, students and the community.
- School leaders develop a mutually supportive, collaborative and trusting relationship with the community to ensure engagement with the life of the school.
- There is effective communication, negotiation, collaboration and advocacy.
- School leaders relate well to all members of the school's community.
- Specific strategies are created for hard-to-reach parents and carers.

## What does high-impact practice look like?

Responding to culture and community, developing strong relationships, inspiring and challenging others, and managing difficult situations and conversations.

Exploring the use of technology to deepen the engagement of parents and carers in student learning.

Creating a positive learning atmosphere for students and staff as part of the wider community.

### Things to consider:

- High-performing leaders consistently demonstrate sophisticated personal and interpersonal qualities.
- Leaders are responsive and flexible in the fast-changing and increasingly complex circumstances of the community environment.
- Effective leaders use educational expertise and management skills to create a school culture in which all learners make progress and achieve.

### Where can I find out more:

[Leading for impact video case studies](#)

[Leading for impact: Australian guidelines for school leadership development](#)

[Australian Professional Standard for Principals and the Leadership Profiles](#)

[Leading for impact reflection tools](#)

[The complete suite of associated 'What is guides'](#)

The above can be found on the AITSL website.