

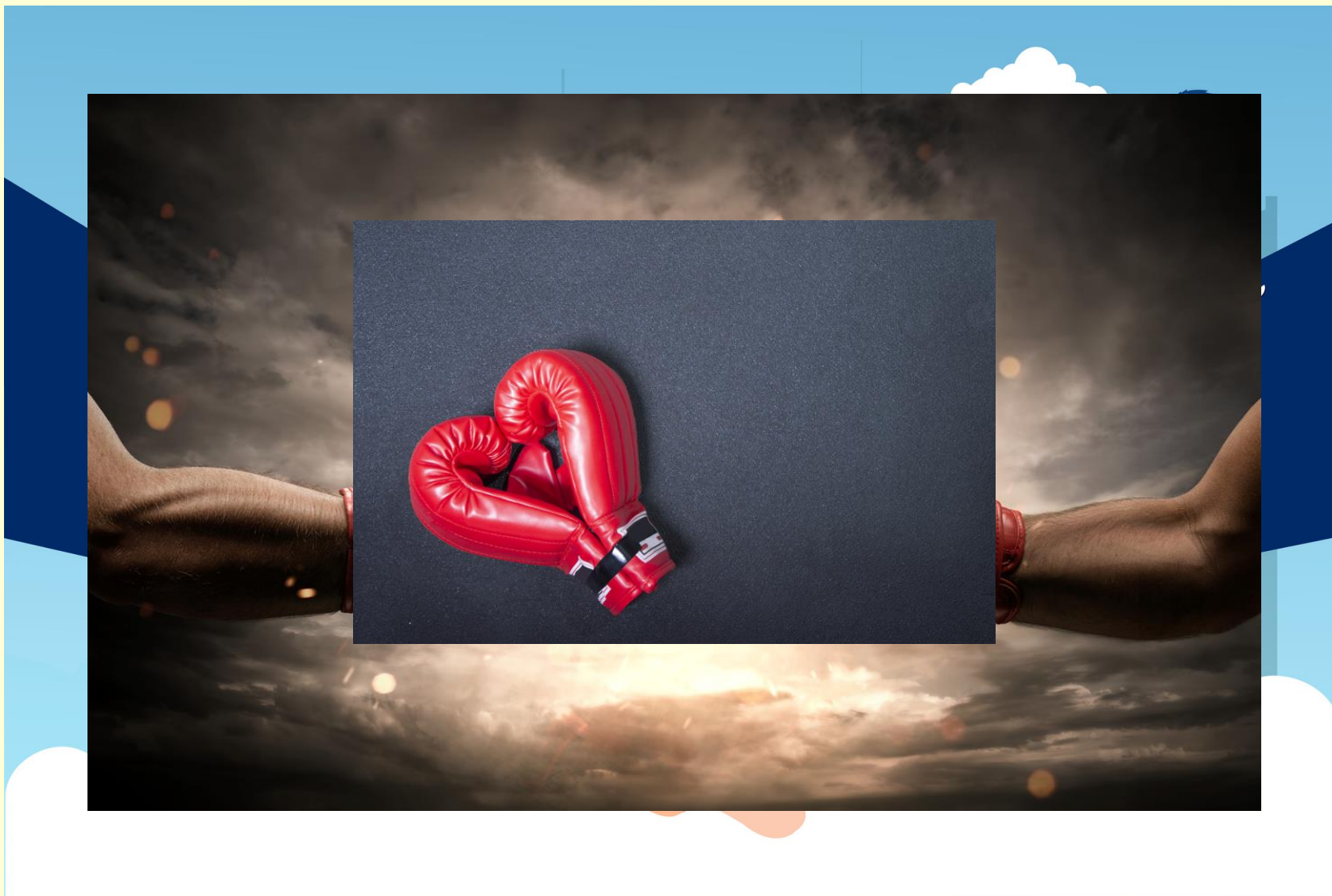
Connecting: Family-School-Community

Chris McLaughlin, MSW, LCSW
Inspired Consulting Group, LLC

© 2023, Inspired Consulting Group. All rights reserved.



Family Engagement



Engaging Families & Caregivers

Parents/caregivers want what they believe is best for their child(ren).

Family culture is complex and goes far beyond race/ethnicity/religion...

Parents/caregivers want their child(ren) to be better and have more opportunity than what they had.



Parents/caregivers are terrified for their child(ren) and just want their kids to get through “this”.

Parents are doing the very best with what they have in that moment in time.

Parents/caregivers know their child(ren) better than we ever can or will.

The Key is EMPATHY

“Empathy doesn't require that we have the exact same experiences as the person sharing their story with us...Empathy is connecting with the emotion that someone is experiencing, not the event or the circumstance.” - Brené Brown

This must be a really challenging time for you.

I can't imagine how hard this is for you and your family.



I am beginning to understand how this could be frustrating for you.

What can I do to better support you and your family right now?

Tips for Success



Students With Unique Educational Needs



Learning Disabilities



Behavioral Health Needs



Homelessness



Bullying



Queer Youth



Partnering with LGBTQIA+ Student Families & Caregivers



Affirming Family Behaviors

- Talking openly with youth about their LGBTQIA+ identity in an affirming manner.
- Communicating that their child can have a happy future as an LGBTQIA+ adult.
- Welcoming the youth's LGBTQIA+ friends and supporting their involvement in LGBTQIA+ youth groups.
- Working to ensure that other family members respect the youth.
- Talking with clergy and help their faith community support LGBTQIA+ individuals.
- Responding positively to the youth's gender expression including hairstyle, dress, and appearance.
- Advocating for youth if they are mistreated because of their identity.

LGBTQIA+ Students - Allyship

Allyship is the practice of emphasizing social justice, inclusion, and human rights by members of an ingroup, to advance the interests of an oppressed or marginalized outgroup.



Key principles of allyship:

- An ally consistently promotes and embodies inclusive leadership and equitable behaviors/practices.
- An ally understands the necessity of moving beyond diversity initiatives towards human equity.
- An ally passionately and actively engages their own communities and continuously works to dismantle oppressive structures.



REPRESENTATION MATTERS

Representation in the Classroom Setting



LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY FLAGS



Community Partners



Tips for Successful Partnerships with Community Providers



The Basics:

- Releases of Information
- Establish standards of communication (email vs. phone, how often, etc...)
- Clarify roles and responsibilities and ensure there's a plan when overlap exists
- Make no assumptions about who *should* do something
- Who manages crises?
- How does communication happen off hours?
- When in doubt, refer back to the parent/caregiver!

Putting It All Together

Schools

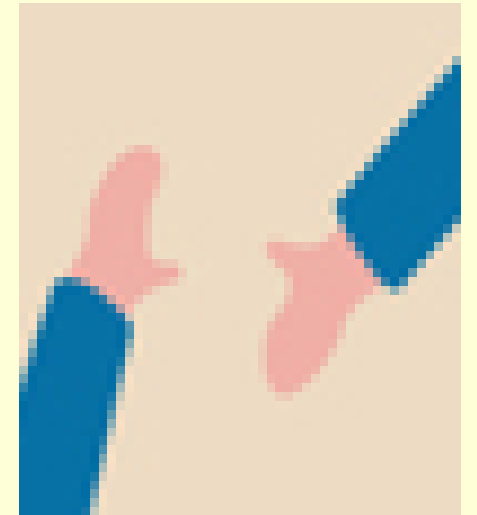
Families

Communities

Students



Trust the Process



THANK YOU! Questions/Comments?



Chris McLaughlin, MSW, LCSW

Chris.McLaughlin@inspiredconsultinggroupllc.com

(207) 478-0884

© 2023, Inspired Consulting Group. All rights reserved.