SHARING STUDENT WORK WITH FAMILIES

Schools are encouraged to share student work with families on Common Core-aligned performance tasks. There are many different ways to have these conversations with families. Below you will find a sample protocol to use at parent teacher conferences or other family events and strategies for putting it into practice. For additional resources, visit:
http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/Toolkit/Support/default.htm

PRE-ACTIVITY

- Download a customizable template for your discussion with families: http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/Toolkit/Support/default.htm.
- Tailor it to your classroom. Add a description of your culminating task and a sample of exemplary student work, or create your own template.
- Download the Common Core Overview to share with families, available in multiple languages here: http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/Toolkit/Support/default.htm.

DISCUSSING STUDENT WORK WITH FAMILIES

Step 1: Review the performance task as part of the 2011-12 Instructional Expectations.

Describe the performance task to the family, or ask the student to describe it. What standards were assessed?

Step 2: Explain how you evaluated this assignment.

Describe the key criteria you used for grading, and consider sharing a portion of the rubric. What scale did you use to evaluate the work? What does a student need to do to earn the highest score?

Step 3: What does exemplary work look like?

Share a sample of student work that meets your key criteria. What specific characteristics make the work exemplary?

Step 4: Share the student's response to the performance task.

Give family members a minute to read the student's work, or have the student describe it. What score did the student receive? Start positive. What were the student's strengths? In what areas can he or she improve?

Step 5: Establish next steps.

Ask family members if they have any questions. How can everyone work together to help the student meet grade-level expectations? How can families contact you with follow-up questions or concerns?

Strategies for Putting it into Practice

- Encourage middle and high school students to lead the conversation.
- Post exemplary student work for parents to see in a visible location, such as the Parent Association meeting room or a bulletin board outside your classroom.
- Hold the discussion in coordination with a Parent Association meeting, Common Core workshop, or other family event.
- Consider working with teacher teams to create one template per grade.
- Share the performance task and a sample of student work at a group session before meeting one-on-one about individual student work.
- Consider inviting families into your classroom to view any group presentations or performances that are part of your culminating task.
- Set up a separate room or booth to address questions about the Common Core from families.
- If students are completing the culminating task later in the year, consider sharing a task that leads up to your culminating task. Share your plans for the upcoming assignment with families and discuss when they should expect to see results.
- Consider how you will modify any review of student work to allow families with low literacy rates or non-English speakers to participate fully.

Additional Resources

- See *Maximizing Parent-Teacher Conferences* for additional ways to introduce families to the Common Core this year: http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/D5ADD6EB-EE3D-46D4-A49B-A5A6E334E698/0/201112ParentTeacherConferencesFINAL20110923.pdf.
- View resources to support learning at home in the Common Core Library: http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/Toolkit/Support/default.htm.
- For more information about student-led conferences, visit http://vimeo.com/29799441.
- View national research on family involvement and related materials at the Harvard Family Research Project: http://www.hfrp.org.
- Encourage families to find additional resources and provide feedback on the Common Core in New York City: http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/FamilyResources.
- Download sample templates: http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/Toolkit/Support/default.htm.

Reflection

- How did families respond to the conversation?
- How would you modify the protocol next time?