

Home Visit Experience for Central Office Staff



Home visits are only as powerful as the reflection and action that follow. For system leaders, the goal is not just to observe, but to make meaning of what was learned and translate those insights into better decisions, stronger systems, and more responsive practices. When central office leaders participate in home visits, what they pay attention to matters. Without clear focus, it's easy to default to evaluating educators rather than understanding the family experience and the system conditions shaping it.

This tool is designed to help build experiences for central office leaders to join relationship building home visits alongside educators. This tool grounds observations in what matters most: relationship-building, trust, and alignment to student learning.

Use this resource to help make the case to central office staff that home visits are a critical strategy for building trust across a system.

Agenda + Roles

Agenda Item	Teacher	"Buddy"
Introductions and setting purpose	Teacher explains the purpose of the visit and begins introductions.	Share your title or role, a little about yourself and that you are here to learn more about the families and children you serve.
Get to know the family and student	Ask questions about the child and family. Follow up as needed.	Listen actively. Ask clarifying questions when needed.
Hopes and Dreams	Ask about the family's hopes and dreams for their child this year and beyond. Listen actively	Listen actively. Ask clarifying questions when needed.
Expectations	Ask the family for their expectations of you and share one expectation.	Listen actively. Ask clarifying questions when needed and affirm parent expectations.
Close	Thank family for hosting.	Thank family for hosting.

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Debrief

This debrief tool is designed to help central office leaders reflect on their home visit experience through a systems lens. It guides leaders to consider what they learned about family perspectives, trust, communication, and barriers to engagement—and how those insights should inform district strategy and implementation.

Opening Reflection: Grounding in Experience

- What stood out to you most from the home visit experience?
- How did this experience deepen or challenge your understanding of family-school partnership?

Family Hopes and Dreams

- What did you learn about the family's hopes and dreams for their child?
- In what ways did this challenge your assumptions or expand your thinking about families and their role in student success?

Implications for Educator Practice

- What did you observe about how educators build trust with families?
- How might educators leverage insights from home visits to strengthen instruction, communication, and ongoing engagement?

From Insight to System: So Now What?

- What implications does this experience have for how we design systems, supports, and expectations for family engagement?
- How should this learning influence decision-making at the school or central office level?

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Leadership Responsibility

- What role do you play in shaping the conditions for effective family engagement across the system?
- How can you ensure that family voice is consistently reflected in strategy, implementation, and accountability?

Looking Ahead: Continuous Improvement

- What opportunities do you see to strengthen or scale this work moving forward?
- What changes, at the educator, school, or system level, would increase the impact of home visits over time?

Tip: Pair this resource with Building a Home Visit Experience.