



Community Conversations

1. Decide if this is a one-time meeting or an ongoing series.
2. Set a firm beginning and end time. A one-time discussion should be at least two hours. Ongoing talks can be one hour each. Planning is key!
3. An agenda is helpful, but remain flexible. Tackling a topic like children's education can be a major undertaking.
4. Prepare questions to guide the group. (i.e., What's the vision? What opportunities exist? Where are the gaps? How will we fund it?)
5. Invite valuable noneducators, such as parents and community members.

Moderator Tips

- Engage each person early so everyone knows they're equals.
- Keep the group purpose in mind and bring the conversation back to it.
- Don't hesitate to take a break or tell a joke if tensions rise.
- Engage the group with competing ideas or questions; turn the prism.

(Community Conversation Kit, The Harwood Institute)



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School readiness involves the whole child in the context of the family and community.