

## **Educational Wraparound**

### *The Initial Wraparound Conversation*

#### **Points to Remember When Engaging Families**

- Always start with a conversation (not a meeting) with the family, getting their trust and permission before talking with others. Consider holding the initial conversation at the family's home, or in a neutral location, to help send a message that this is not just another meeting.
- Listen to the family's story, and validate their perspective.
- Apply RTI to Family Engagement. Don't keep doing what hasn't worked.
- Start by discussing strengths. Focus on identifying strengths and needs, and avoid "admiring" the problem. Keep in mind, family needs are the priority.
- Remember, professionals don't get to choose or judge how families raise their kids. Avoid blaming or shaming the family.
- If engagement didn't happen, think about how you can change your approach.

#### **Examples of Opening Questions to Assist in Initial Conversations**

- "Please tell me about your child..."
- "What will it look like when life is better?"
- "What is your hope, dream, vision of success with your child/this family?"

#### **Points to Remember when Developing a Team**

- The family chooses team members.
- The team meets when and where the family is comfortable.
- Family and youth should feel like it is their meeting and their plan instead of feeling like they are attending a meeting the school is having about them.