

Building Trust: Advice From Parents

Education Week asked parents, some of whom are advocates in their communities, what advice they would give to school leaders that would help their families navigate the 2020-21 school year.

I've got to push back on the deficit mindset talk. [Students] weren't really being served well before. Frankly, at this moment, I'm listening to a lot of moaning, 'our kids are never going to be able to reach proficiency.' Our children are not broken. It's our job as adults to figure out how to catch them up.

**Keri Rodrigues, cofounder,
National Parents Union**

The rushing part is one of my biggest concerns. They should have had time to teach the kids more about the software. Some of these teachers don't have patience. Be a little more patient because it's new to the kids, too.

Shenetria Jackson, Houston

Build better partnerships with parents. We know our children, we love our children, we trust our children with you, but you have an obligation to educate our children at the highest level. And you can't do that without a partnership with parents.

**Cameron Walker, parent
activist, Dayton, Ohio**

Really think through the supports. Parents aren't OK... You may have multiple children at home, you may be trying to work yourself. Where is that social emotional support for families?

**Vanessa Jimenez, president,
Phoenix Union High School
District Classified Employee
Association**

