

## STANDARD 6 CHECKLIST

### How Well is Your School Sharing Power and Practicing Democracy?

#### Drawing on Community Resources

1. The school works closely with local public libraries and takes families on field trips to get library cards and borrow books and media.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

2. A family resource center, school social worker, and/or other staff help families make connections to social services such as a food bank, a medical clinic, or housing assistance.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

3. The school taps local businesses and community institutions for technical services, job opportunities for families and students, reduced fees, tutoring and mentoring, and training.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

### Collaborating With Community Organizers

1. Teachers and parents work with community organizers to research solutions to problems that families and students face, such as bullying, traffic hazards, and gang activity.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

2. The school hosts “accountability sessions” with local elected officials, so that families can raise their concerns about public services, such as street lights, community policing, drug trafficking, or poor trash collection.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

3. If community organizers raise issues like class size, teacher qualifications, achievement gaps, and crumbling facilities, the school is willing to work with them to make improvements. If community organizers have not approached the school, the school reaches out to them.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard

Which area(s) are you doing well in? Which ones will need more work?

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In what ways does your school share power with parents and build their social and political connections?

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What are your concerns?

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**Reflection:** What steps could you take to make your school a laboratory of democracy?

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Over the long term:

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From *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*