WHAT IS A CONNECTION CONVERSATION?

- A proactive, intentional engagement of a family to jumpstart or strengthen the teacher/family partnership.
- A voluntary, scheduled videocall lasting 30 minutes between the classroom teacher and parents or caregivers. The student may also participate.
- An opportunity for educators to collaborate and support one another.
- Now open for Q2 of the 2020-21 School Year for CPS pre-K to 8 teachers with a classroom roster. Participating educators receive stipends.
- Designed with the CPS Five-Year Vision, especially the CPS Equity Framework, in mind.

THE PAYOFF

- Face-to-face visits (even virtual ones) build connection, empathy, and trust.
- Teachers and families learn from one another to help form stronger teacher/family partnerships.
- Meaningful family engagement accelerates student achievement.

THE PROCESS

1. If you’re a pre-K to 8 CPS teacher with a classroom roster, you’re eligible. Get permission from your principal, then register ASAP at stand.org/illinois/connectionconversations. When you register, sign up for one of the 75-minute synchronous training sessions offered through Dec 12.
2. After the training, invite parents on your roster to have Connection Conversations. You choose the platform (Google, Zoom, etc.) and mutually convenient time.
3. After each Connection Conversation, log your visit and send a thank you note to the family. We’ll provide the stationery and stamps.
4. Stipends are $25 for the training and each Connection Conversation, plus a bonus of $125 after your fourth visit. That means, if you do the training and three visits, you receive $100. If you do a fourth visit, you will receive $250. (You can do more than four, too.)
5. You will be invited to virtual reflection sessions led by CPS teachers.
6. Registration opens Nov 2 and closes Dec 12. Trainings offered on various dates Nov 10 through Dec 12. Visits can start as soon as you complete your training. All visits must be completed and logged by Feb 7 (end of Q2). Space is limited.