

Family Re-Engagement to Improve High School Student Achievement

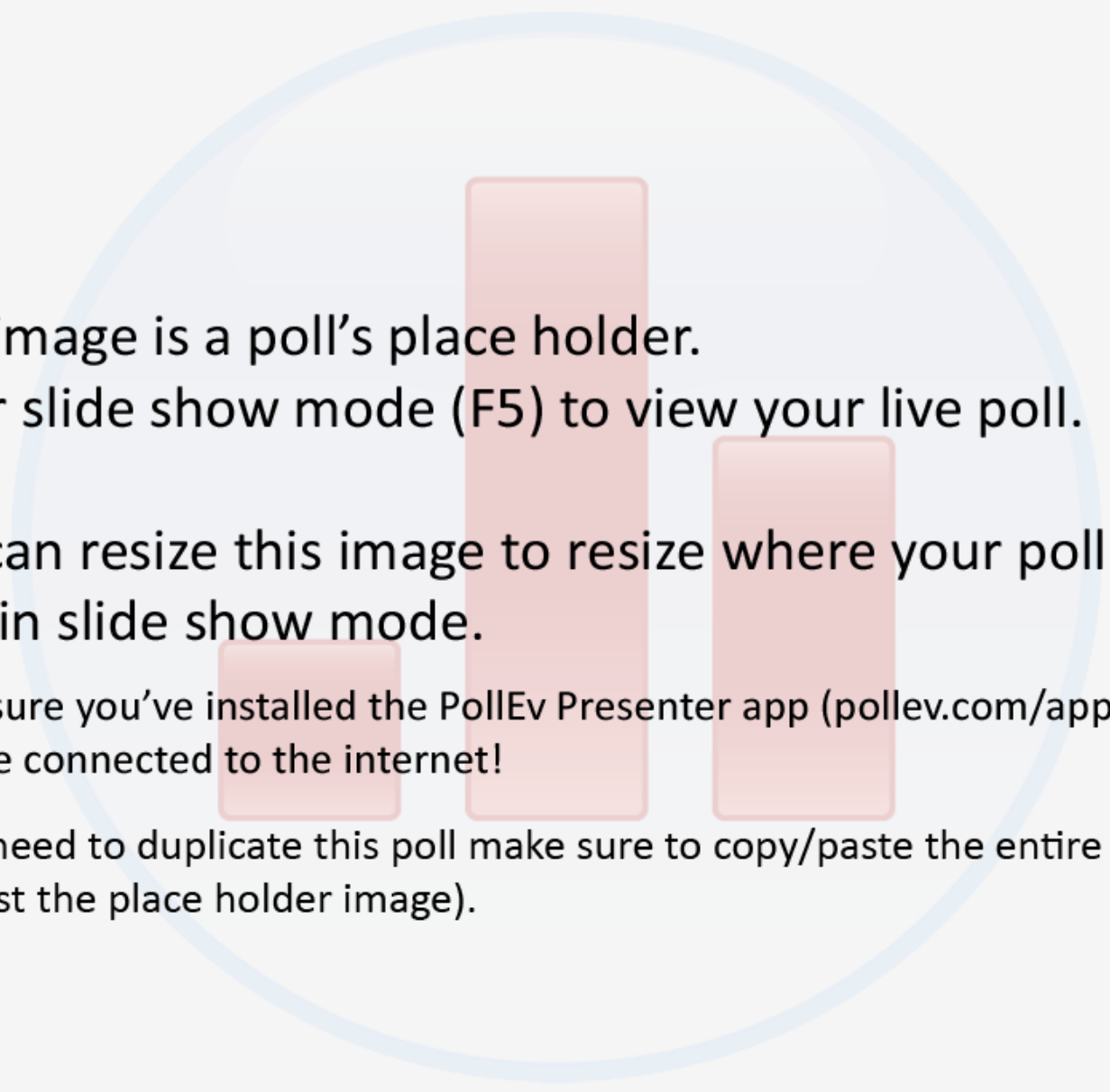


2014 GCEL Conference
February 24 – 26, 2014

Nathan Schult
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Georgia Department of Education



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Session Expectations

Understand the differences and challenges that high school presents students and parents



Walk away with helpful strategies to effectively work with your families to support student achievement

1

2

3

Provide solutions to ensure that parents are continuously engaged in their students' education



Remember, HOPE IS NOT A STRATEGY



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Title I Parental Involvement



Title I, Part A is a federally funded program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. It is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards in order to reinforce and amplify efforts to improve teaching and learning for students furthest from meeting state standards.



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Title I Parental Involvement



The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) provides the Parent Engagement Program to assist and ensure that Title I, Part A Parent Involvement regulations are met with **meaningful** and **strategic actions** to build parent capacity in schools and school districts under the law.



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Definition of Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is defined as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, to include and ensure:



Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning



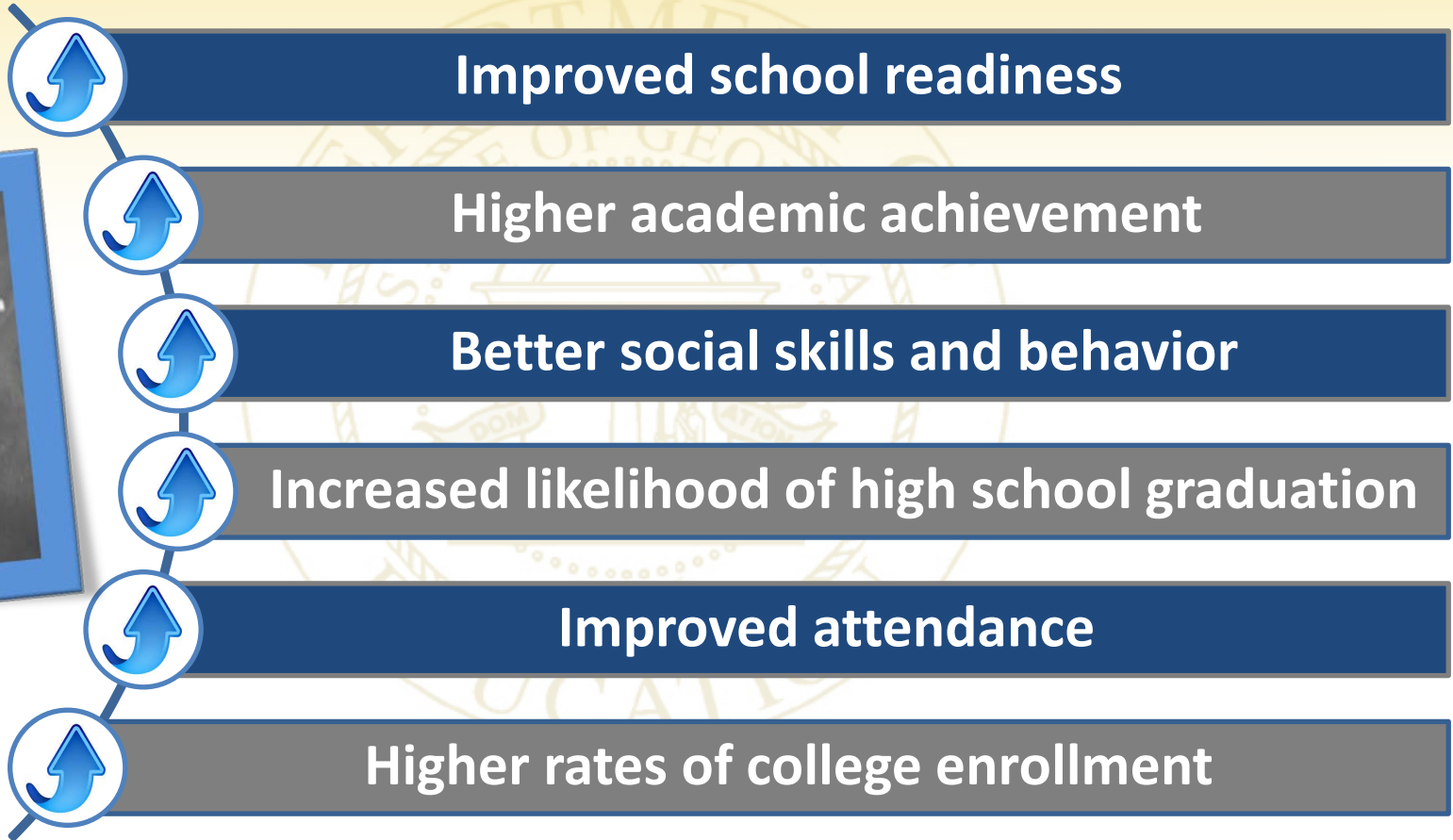
Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education



Parents are full partners in their child's education and included in the decision making in the education of their child

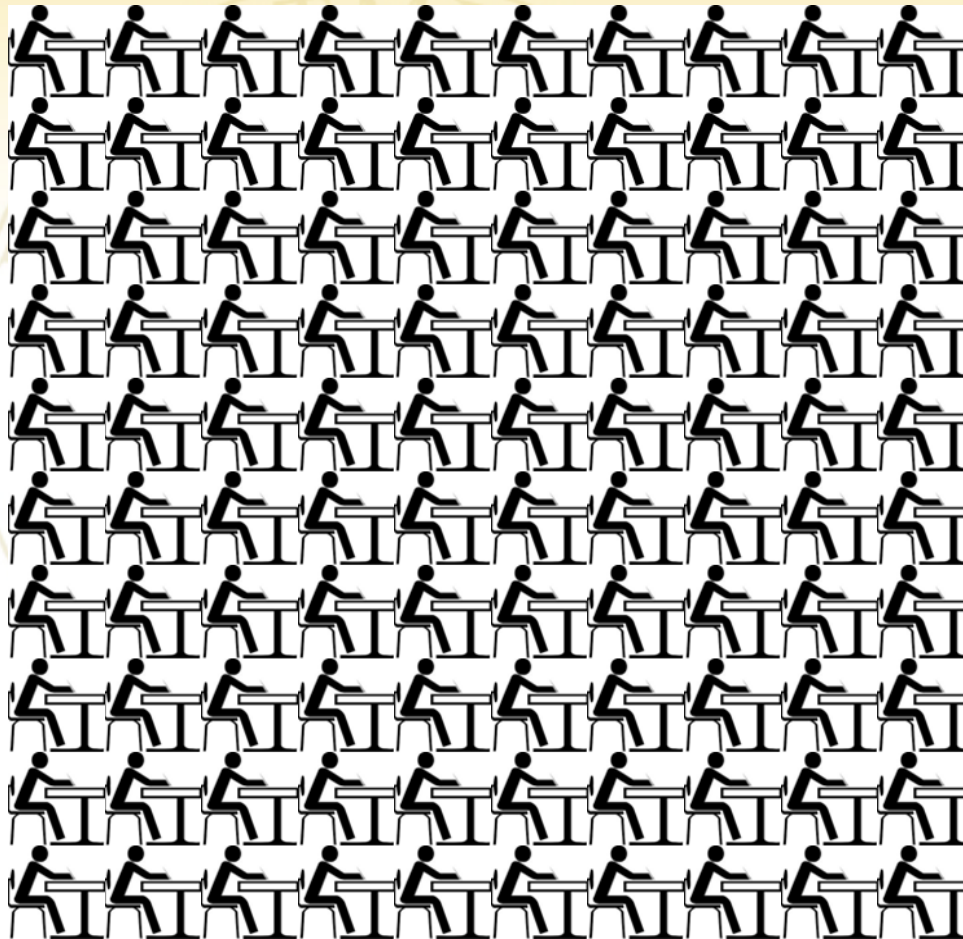


Schools + Parents = Student Success



The Education Pipeline

Of Every
100 9th
Grade
Students
in
Georgia...



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National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (2008).
Student Pipeline - Transition and Completion Rates from 9th Grade to
College. <http://www.higheredinfo.org>

The Education Pipeline

67



Will
graduate
high
school in
4 years...

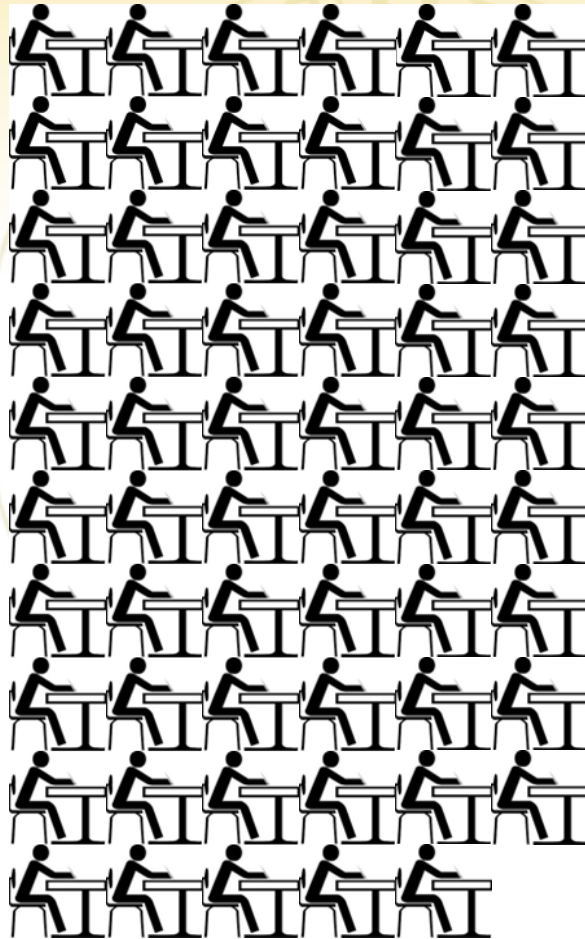


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Everyone Graduates Center. Civic Marshall Plan State Indices and Annual Updates. Georgia. 2013.

The Education Pipeline

41



Will
enroll in
college in
the fall...

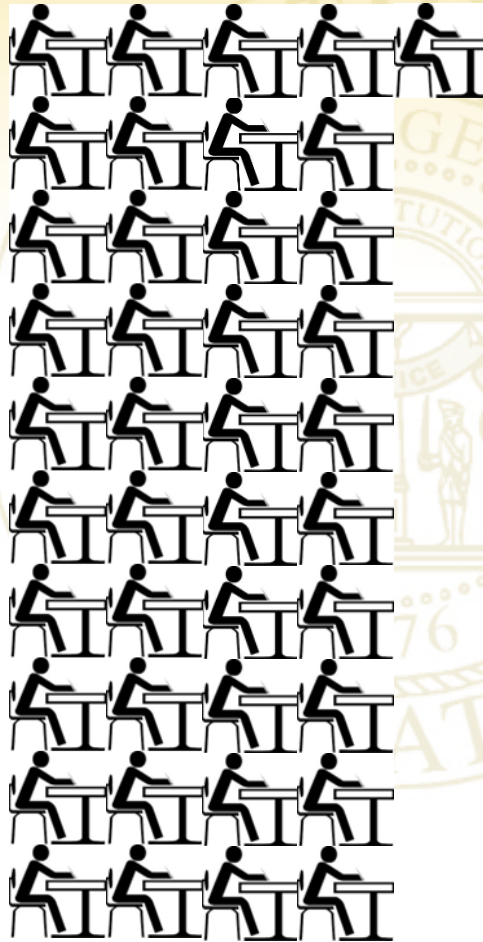


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National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (2008).
Student Pipeline - Transition and Completion Rates from 9th Grade to
College. <http://www.higheredinfo.org>

The Education Pipeline

27



Are still
enrolled in
college their
second year...



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National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (2008).
Student Pipeline - Transition and Completion Rates from 9th Grade to
College. <http://www.higheredinfo.org>

The Education Pipeline

17



Will earn a
college
degree.



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National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (2008).
Student Pipeline - Transition and Completion Rates from 9th Grade to
College. <http://www.higheredinfo.org>

Where is the Leak?

What happened to those 100 9th Graders?

9th Grade Bulge

4.19 million
total students

Many
students are
held back in
ninth grade

Fail 25%
of 9th grade
courses

Fewer than
five credits

Fail a core
subject

Low
attendance

10th Grade Dip

3.75 million
total students

Many
students drop
out by tenth
grade



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National High School Center. *Easing the Transition to High School: Research and Best Practices Designed to Support High School Learning.* www.betterhighschools.org

How is High School Different?

Elementary School Middle School

Parents are the primary decision makers in their child's education

Schools provide increased opportunities for parent involvement

High School

Parents allow their child more freedom to make decisions in self-interest

Schools have limited opportunities for parent involvement



How is High School Different?

**Elementary School
Middle School**

High School

Parents are the primary recipients of school information



Parents receive more information from the school via the student

Parent involvement is more school based



Parent involvement is more home based



How is High School Different?

**Elementary School
Middle School**

High School

Parents provide their child with more homework assistance



Parents focus more on managing homework completion

Parents develop one-on-one relationships with the school



Parent and school relationships are often disconnected



How is High School Different?

**Elementary School
Middle School**

High School

Students are dependent
on their parents



Students seek
independence from
their parents

Class sizes are small and
student population
is low



Class sizes are large and
student population
is great



How is High School Different?

Elementary School
Middle School

High School

Greater parent
influence



Greater peer
influence

High rate of parent
involvement in schools



Low rate of parent
involvement in schools



Possible Theories for Decline

Parents' decreased feelings of efficacy

Complex school buildings and schedules

Negative past experiences

Teenagers' preference for greater autonomy

Challenging parent and school beliefs

Competing home demands



Understanding the Next Generation

How well do we know high school students?

BRB

RUS



NVM

AAMOF

OMG

LOL

GMAB

WDYS

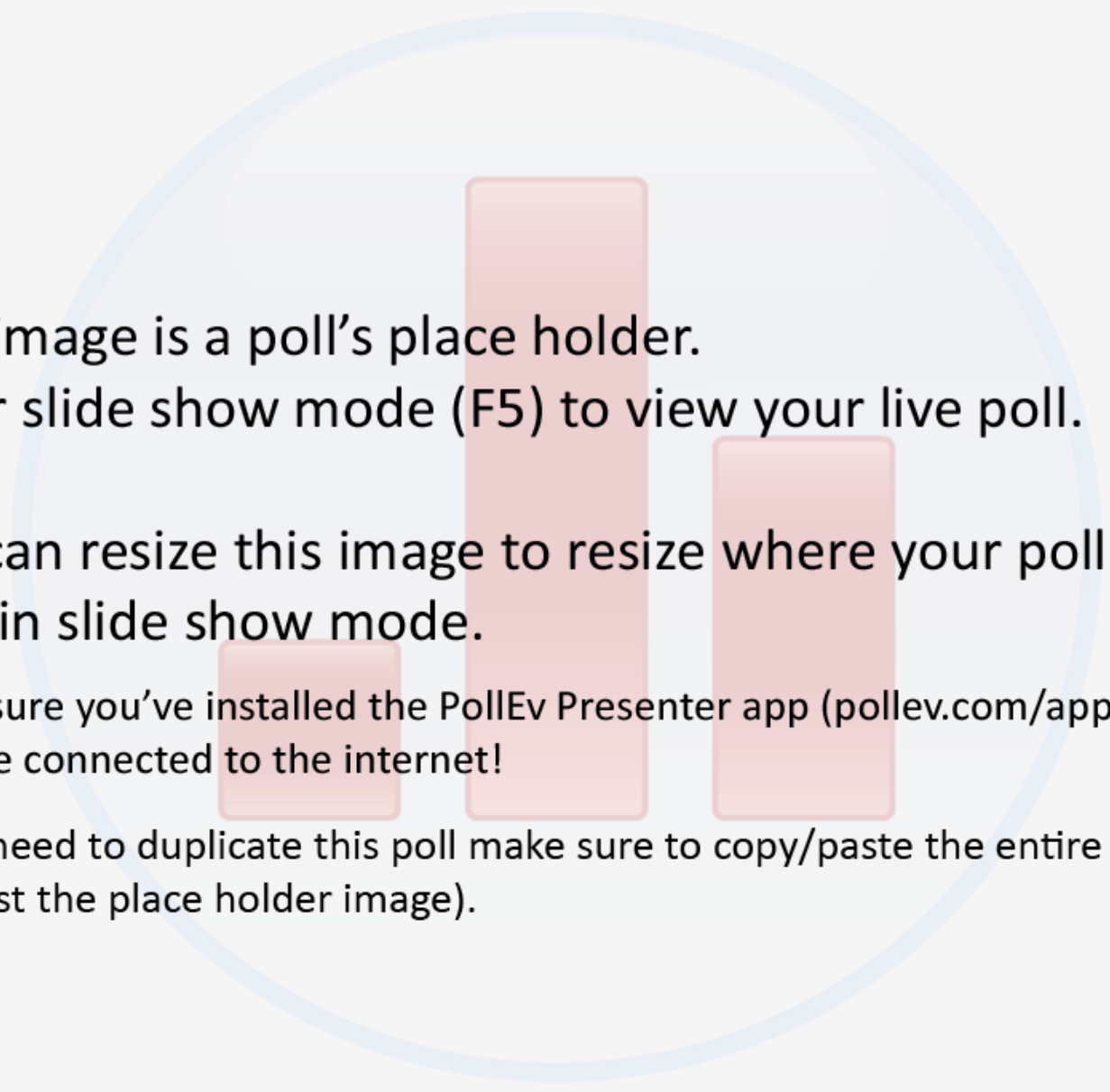
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T2UL



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Adapted from the Pew Research Project, *Millennials a Portrait of Generation Next*. 2010. www.pewresearch.org/millennials and TIME Magazine

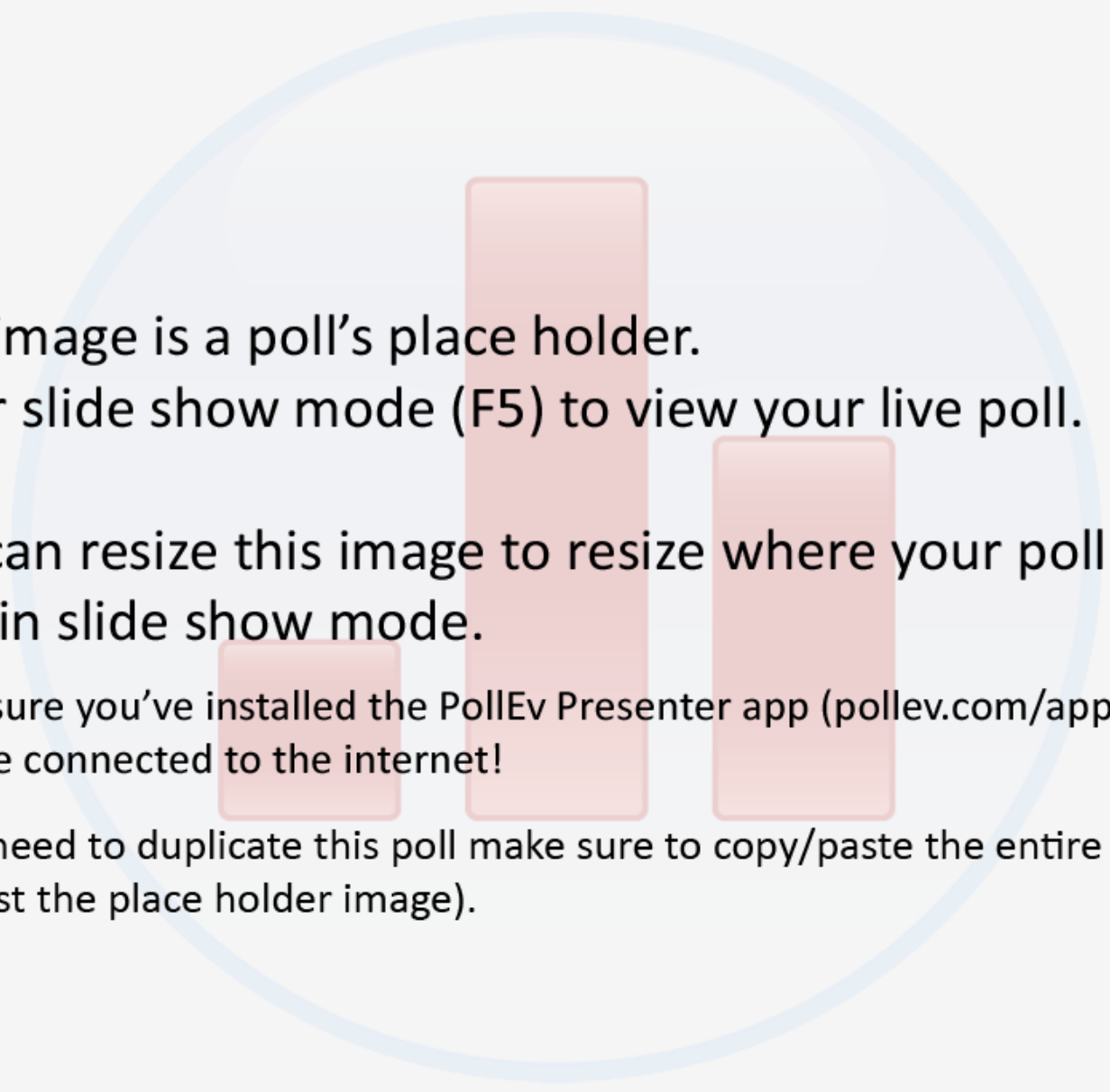


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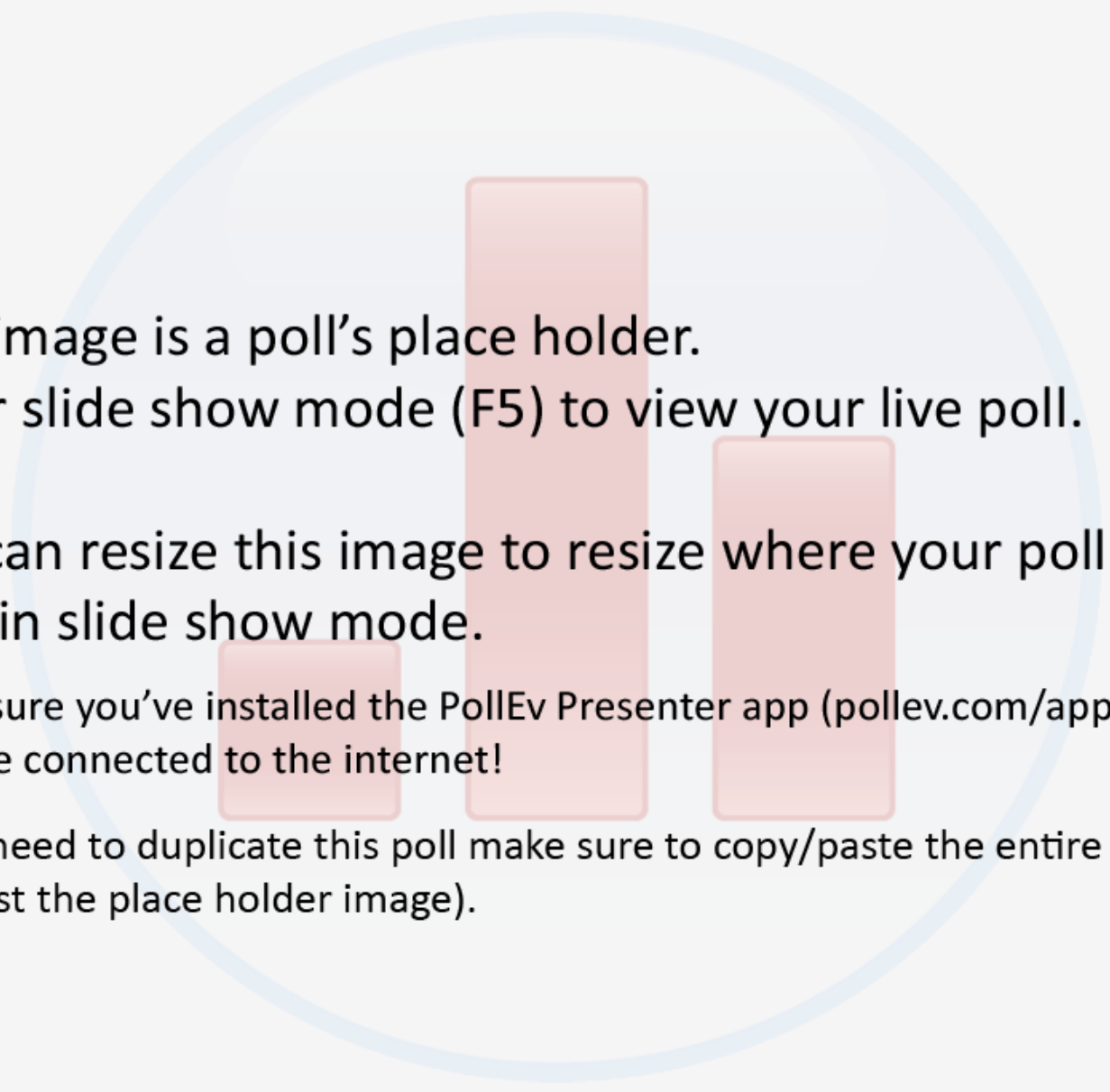


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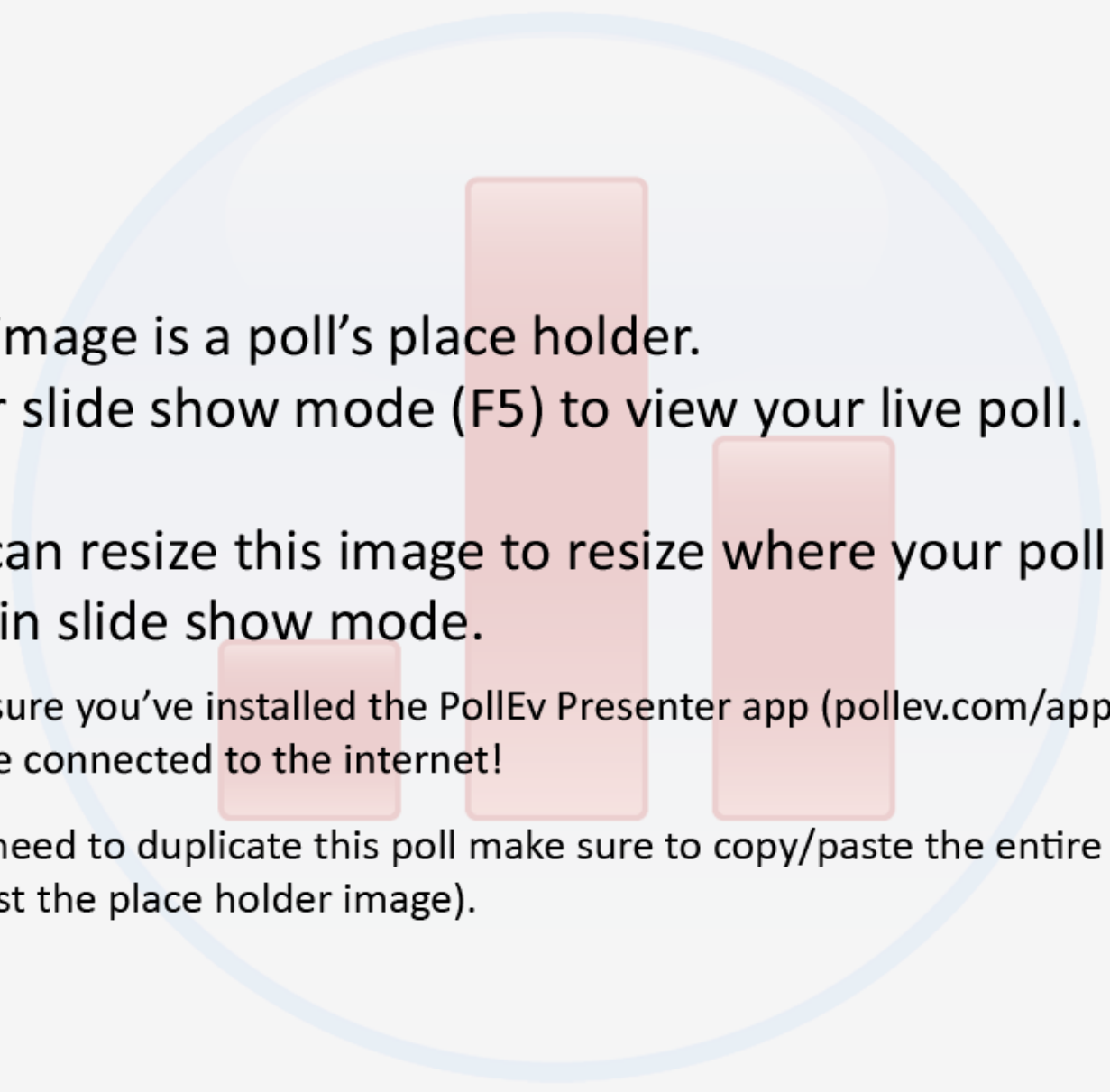


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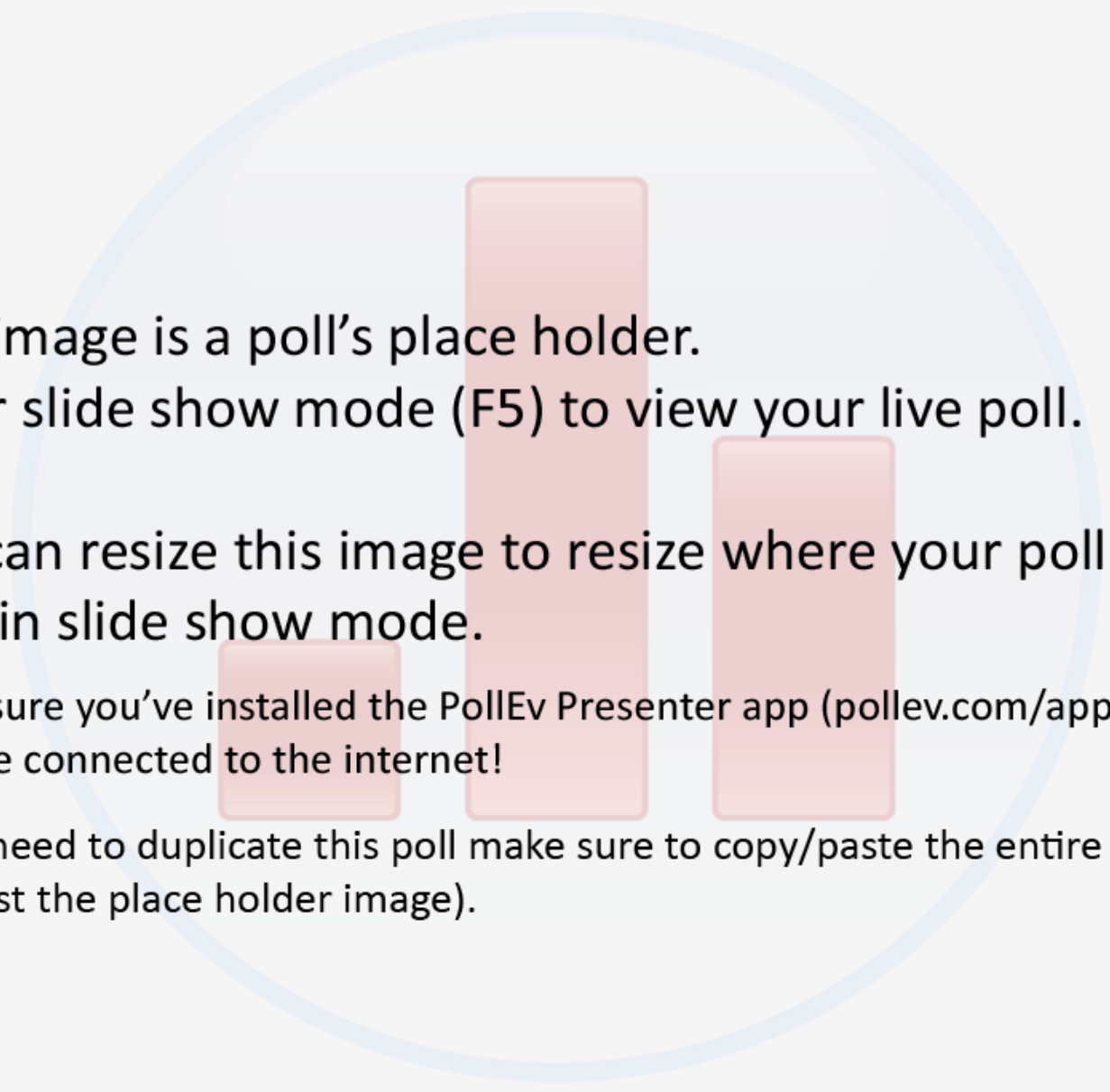


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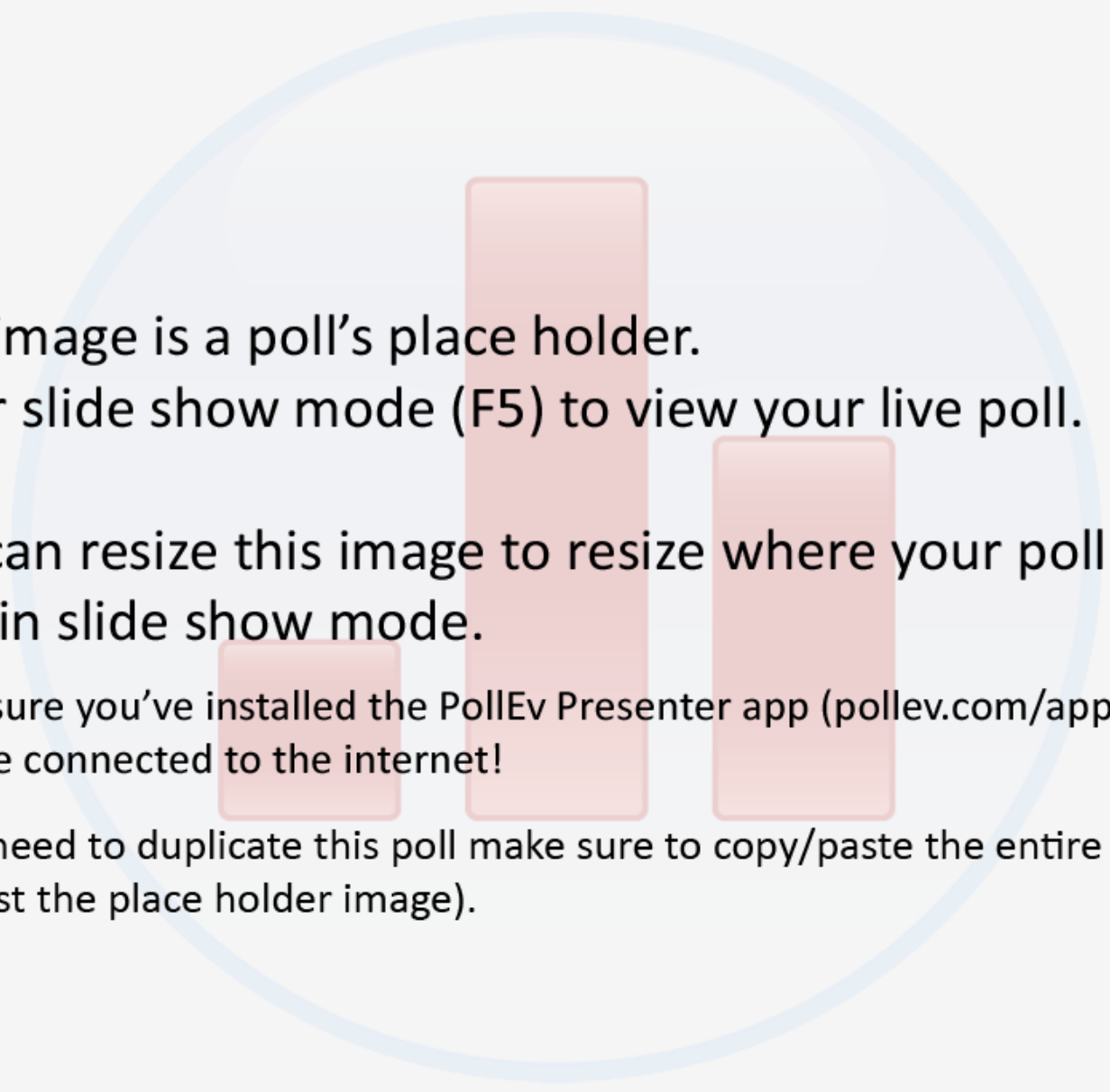


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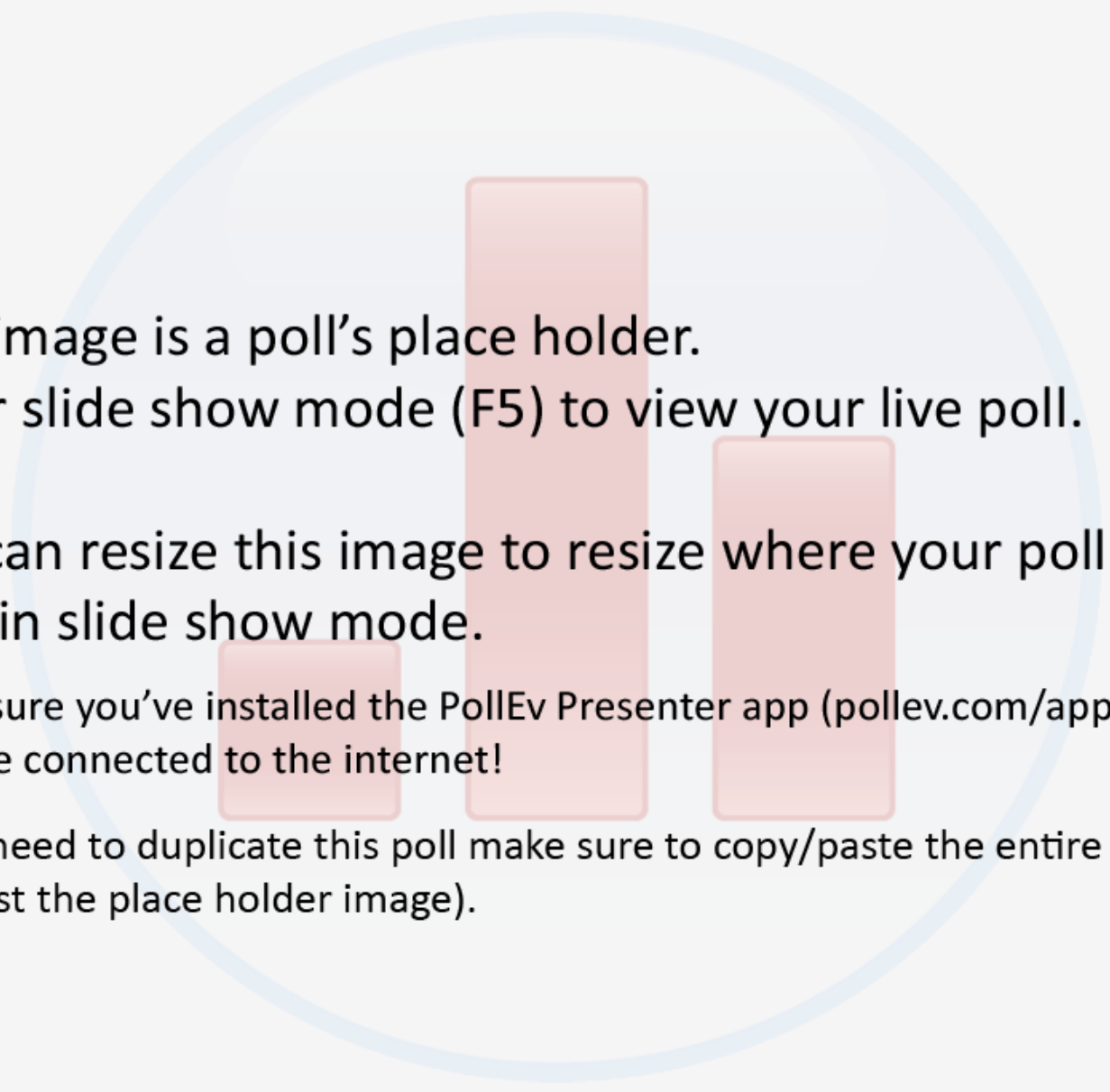


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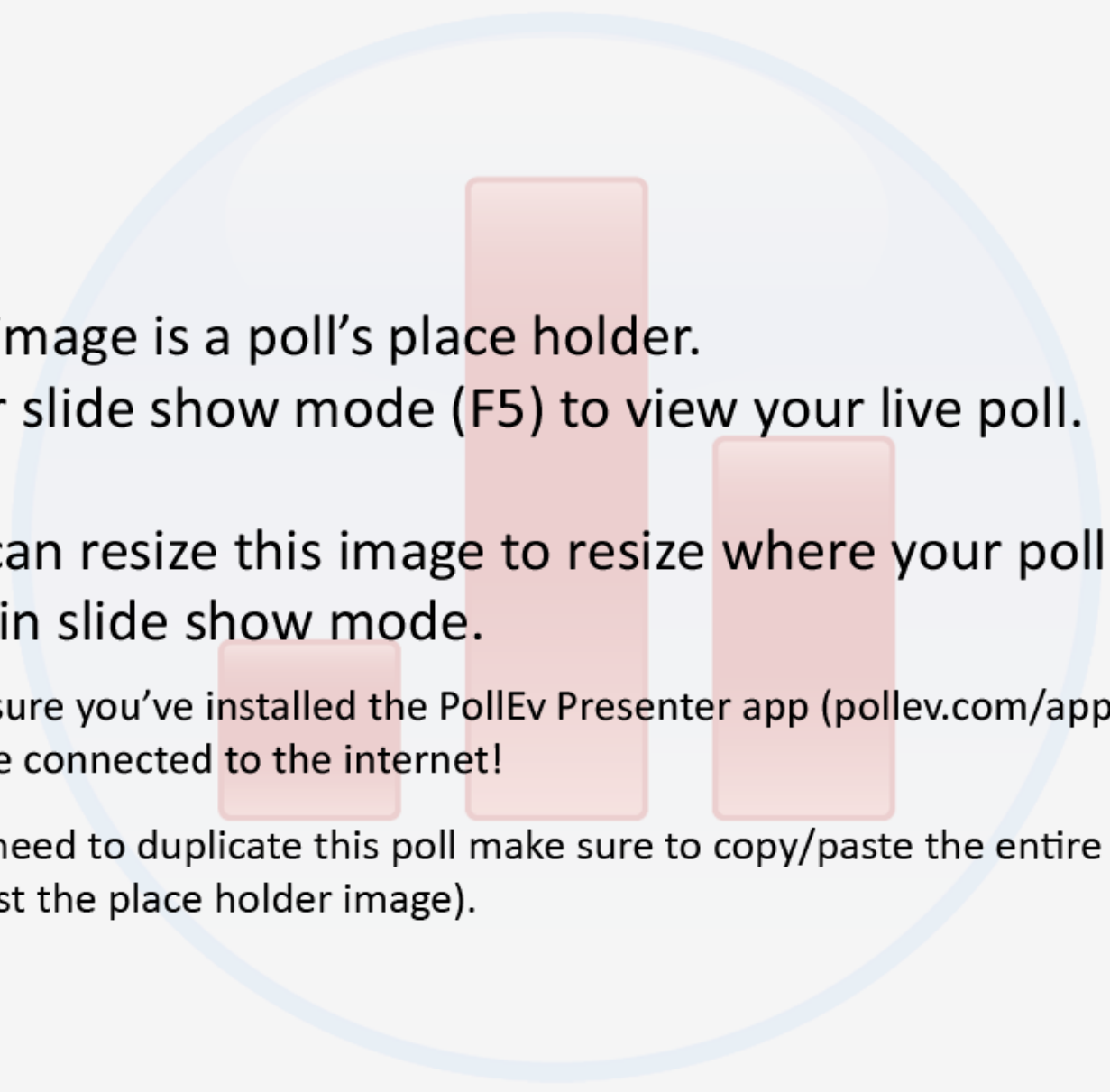


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What Makes a Difference?

47% of young people who leave high school without graduating report being bored or disengaged in high school

Family involvement remains a **powerful predictor** of adolescents' academic achievement and other positive outcomes



38% believe that they had "too much freedom"

Family involvement in education tends to fade as students are preparing to enter one of the **most critical** periods in their education

Family Engagement is ALL About the Students



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How Can Schools Re-Engage Families?

It's as Easy as 1, 2, 3...

Culture

Creating environments that encourage parents to be active participants in their students' education

Communication

Providing parents with the knowledge to guide and motivate their students

Content

Removing possible barriers to build positive relationships between schools and families

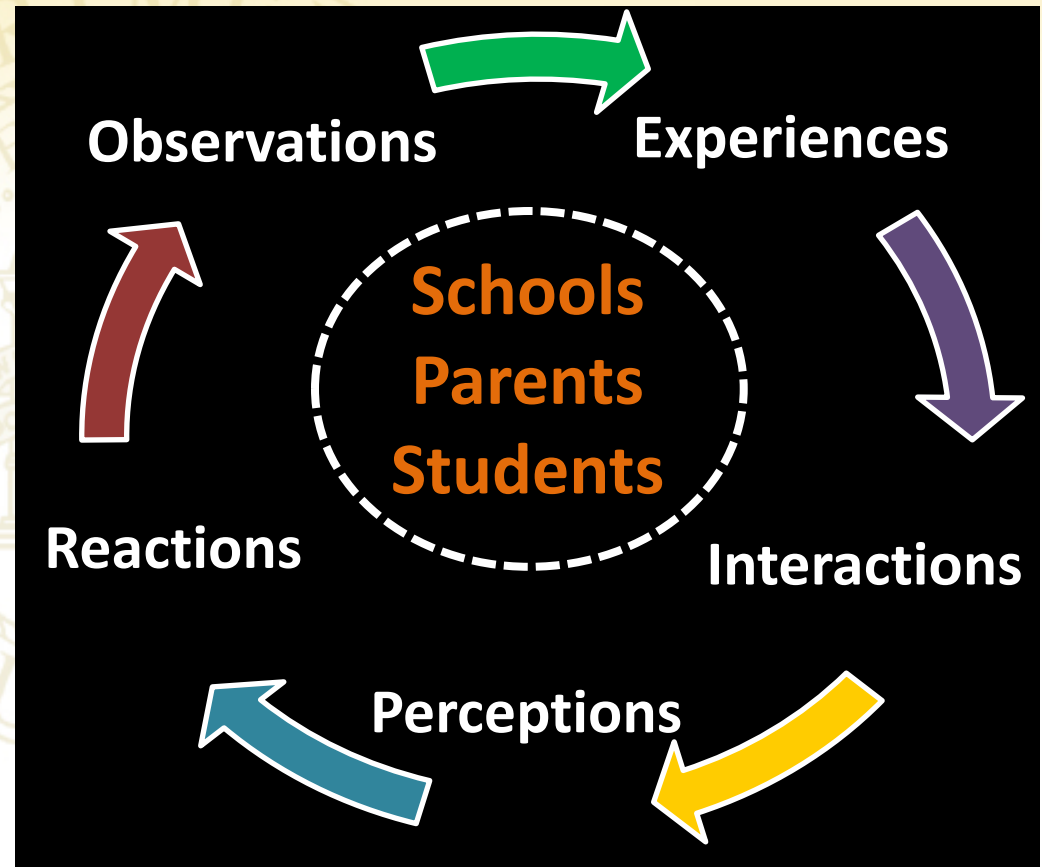


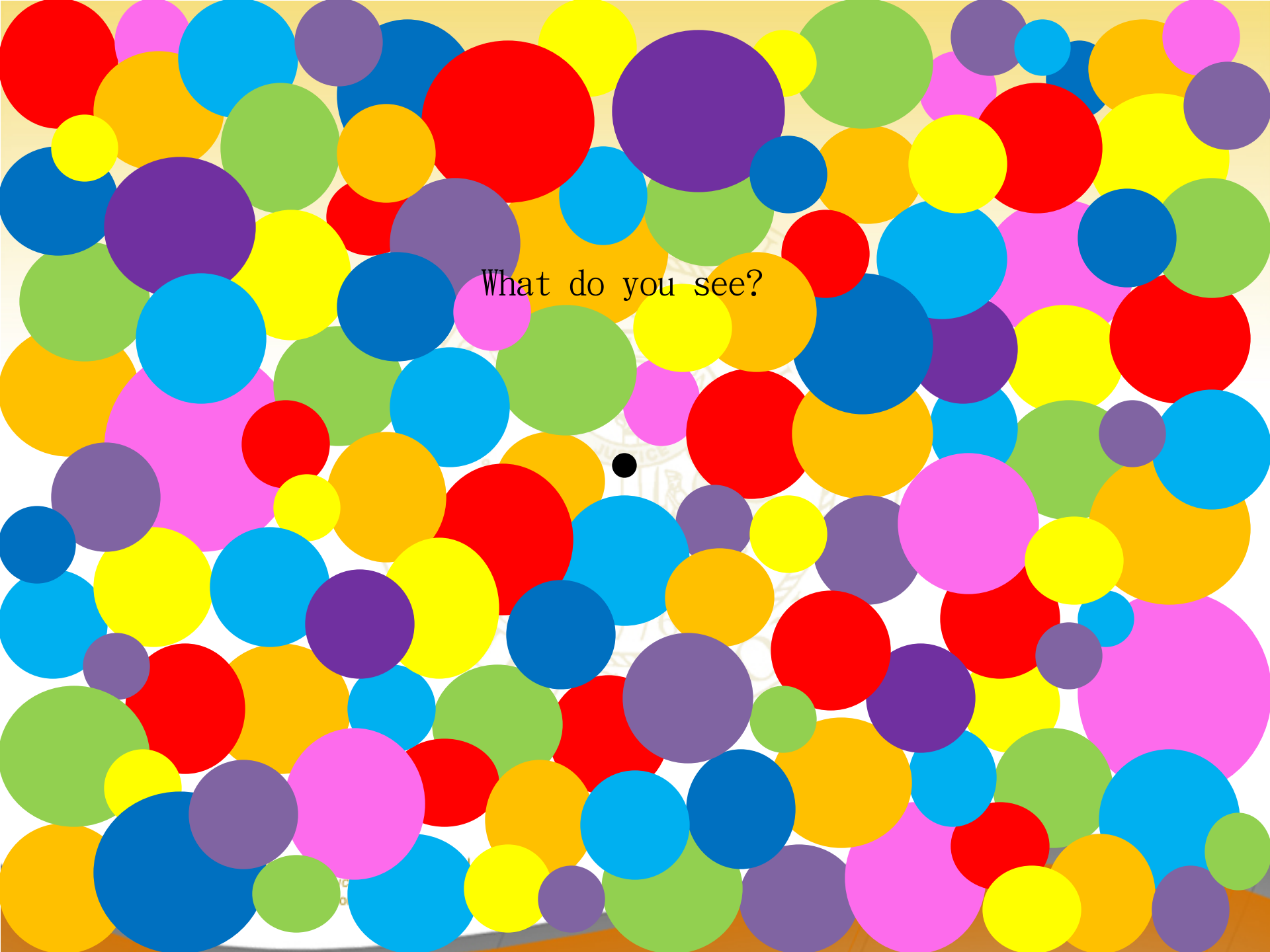
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Creating a Family-Friendly School Culture

Need for Re-Engagement:

By the time students reach high school, parents have developed their own perceptions and biases towards education





What do you see?

Creating a Family-Friendly School Culture

Changing Perceptions

- Staff Development
- Parent Presentations
- Parent/Teacher Collaborations
- Staff Recognition

- Welcoming Environments
- Parent Invitations
- Opportunities to Participate/Volunteer
- Parent Friendly Resources

**Takes Time
Belief and Culture
Schoolwide Approach
Positive Interactions**

Faculty

Families

Students

Improve student achievement through family engagement strategies

- Model appropriate behavior
- Motivate their students
- Monitor student progress



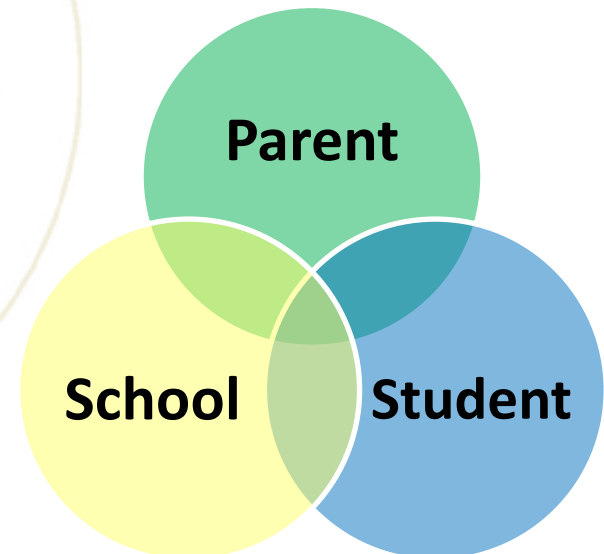
Family-Friendly School Culture

Essential but Easy

Cost of Parent Engagement

Daily Interactions.....FREE
Phone Conversations.....FREE
Hallway Greetings.....FREE
Interesting Environments.....FREE
Welcoming Staff.....FREE
Responsive Assistance.....FREE

**Building Relationships
to Improve Student
Academic Success...**



...Priceless

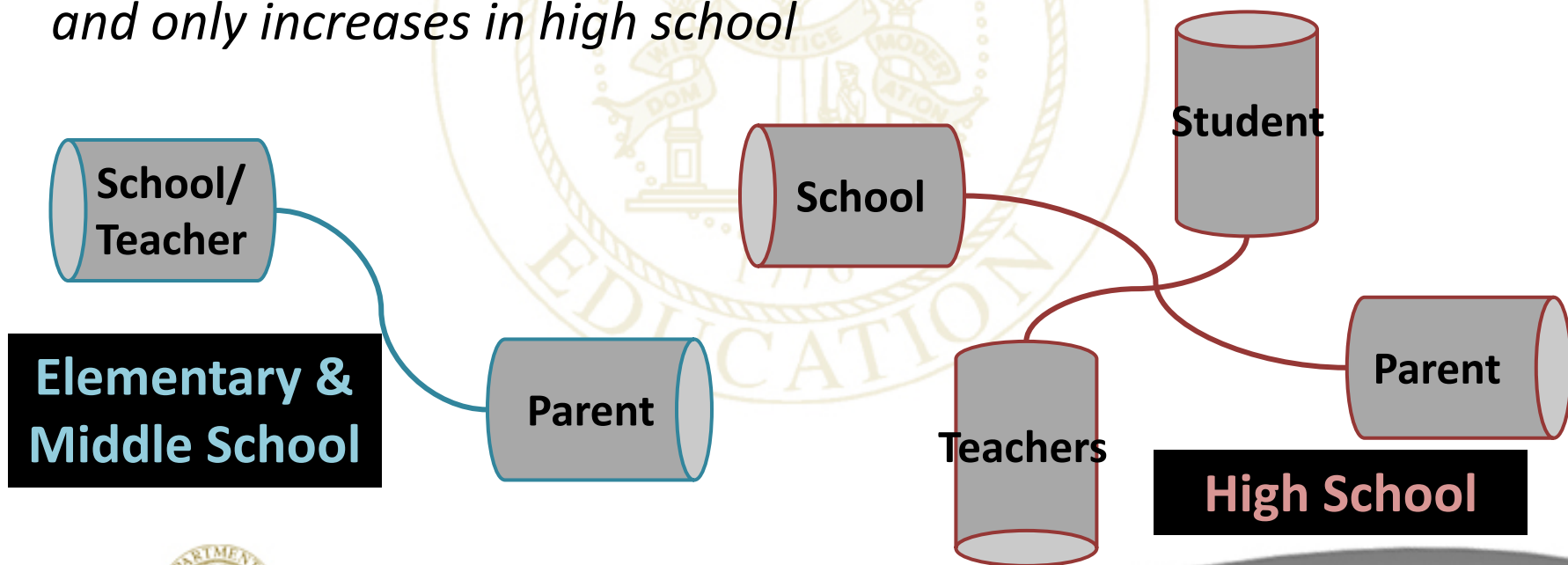


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How can Parents and Schools Communicate more Effectively?

Need for Re-Engagement

Lack of school communication or fear of communication remains one of the greatest barriers to parent involvement and only increases in high school



Methods of School-Parent Communication

Menu of Communications: Pick Any Three

Traditional

- Telephone System
- Letters
- Newsletters
- Flyers
- Marquee
- School Announcements
- Bulletin Boards

1

Two-Way

- School Meetings
- Conferences
- Parent Committees
- Focus Groups
- Grade Level Meetings
- Community Meetings
- Town Hall Meetings
- Parent Cafés

2

Technology

- School website
- Text Message System
- Blogs
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Online Videos
- RSS Feeds
- Mobile Apps
- Online Chat
- Video Conference

3



Strategies to Improve Communication

Student Led Conferences

- *Increase parent participation*
- *Improve student and parent communication*
- *Showcase student work for parents*
- *Involve parents in goal setting and action plans*



Interactive Homework

- *Create opportunities for parents to be involved in assignments*
- *Provide instructions specifically for parents*
- *Encourage parents to talk with their students about homework*
- *Allows parents to provide feedback and ask questions*
- *Enables parents to learn what their students are learning*



Strategies to Improve Communication

Small Learning Communities

- *Create opportunities for students to connect with teachers*
- *Design a team approach to offer structured support*
- *Address the issue of increased class sizes*
- *Assist with transition processes and activities for parents and students*
- *Allow parents to connect with the same group of teachers*
- *Identify students for targeted assistance*

Faculty Chats

- *Schedule specific topics each week*
- *Welcome all parents to enjoy open dialogues*
- *Provide parents with new information*
- *Survey parents to determine areas of interest*
- *Feature different faculty and staff*



Strategies to Improve Communication



Student Advisement

- *Complete four year plan of study*
- *Enable parents to monitor student progress*
- *Discuss career plans and goals*
- *Map out postsecondary plans*

Early Warning System

- *Monitor student progress and data*
- *Use pre-determined triggers to notify parents*
- *Develop supports for parents to use the district parent portal system*
- *Create action plans to engage parents to assist students*



What Content Do Parents Need?

Need for Re-Engagement

Intensified student learning problems coupled with a perceived inability to provide academic assistance causes a decrease in parent involvement during high school



**KNOWLEDGE
IS
POWER**

**Drives parent confidence
Builds parent capacity
Impacts parent motivation
Increases parent engagement**



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High School Parent 101

THE STUDENT HANDBOOK

School Transition

- Strong First Impression
- High School Preparation
- Academic Expectations
- Athletics, Clubs, and Organizations

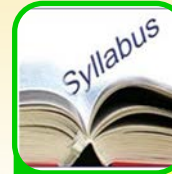
Teacher and Student Panel



Time Management

- Organization
- Goal Setting
- Effective Habits
- Study Skills
- Learning Styles

Day in the Life of a High School Student



Course Description

- Graduation and Promotion
- Course Requirements
- Advanced Course Options

Case Study of Sample Students



High School Parent 101



Test Preparation

- Measures of Student Achievement
- Practice Materials and Resources
- Opportunities for Parent Assistance

**Test Prep
Stations for
Families**



College Admissions

- Deadlines and Requirements
- Admission Tests
- College Majors and High School Courses

**Complete
Practice College
Applications**



Financial Aid

- College Costs
- FAFSA
- Grants and Loans
- Scholarships
- Competitions
- Applications
- Resources and Planning

**Financial Aid
Night**



High School Parent 101



School System

- Faculty and Staff
- Important Dates and Resources
- Parental Involvement Opportunities

**Staff
Description
Posters**



Career Preparation

- Career Days or Fairs
- Career Activities with Parents
- Job Searching Skills

**Student Career
Interest
Inventories**



Summer Learning

- Summer Camps or Programs
- Academic Materials and Resources
- Strategies for Parents

**Career
Experiential
Programs**



Keep It Simple 'n' Sincere



Talk With Parents

Provide Technology Support



Avoid Problem Driven Communication

Ensure Accessibility

Promote Academic Socialization

Enhance Conversation Starters

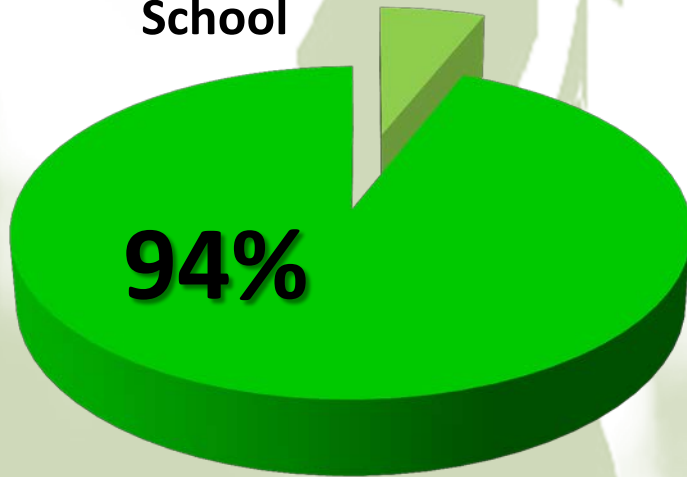


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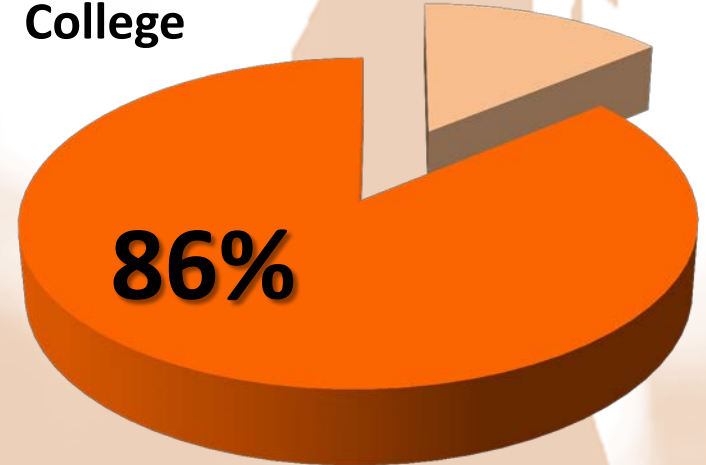
Stopping the Leak

Hopes, Plans and Dreams

High School
Students Say They
Plan to Attend a
Two or Four Year
Postsecondary
School



Parents Say it is
Very Important
For Child to
Receive Education
That Leads to
College



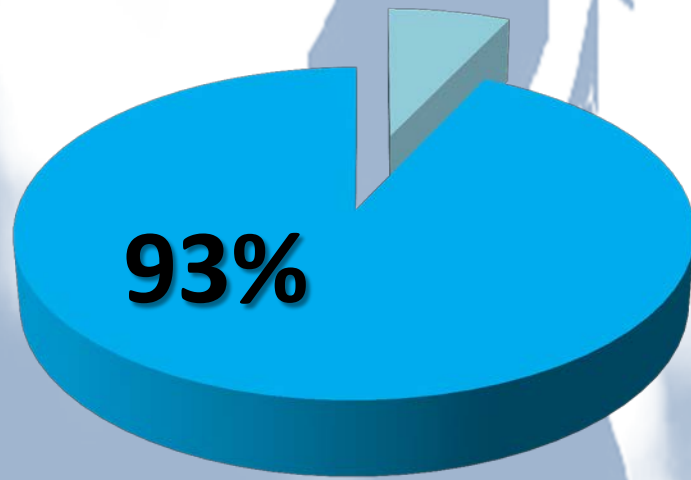
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Middle Schools Poll, Prepared for the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Phi Delta Kappa, 2007; Civic Enterprises, *The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts*, 2006; Boys & Girls Clubs of America/Taco Bell Foundation for Teens, *Teen Graduation Crisis Survey*, 2009.

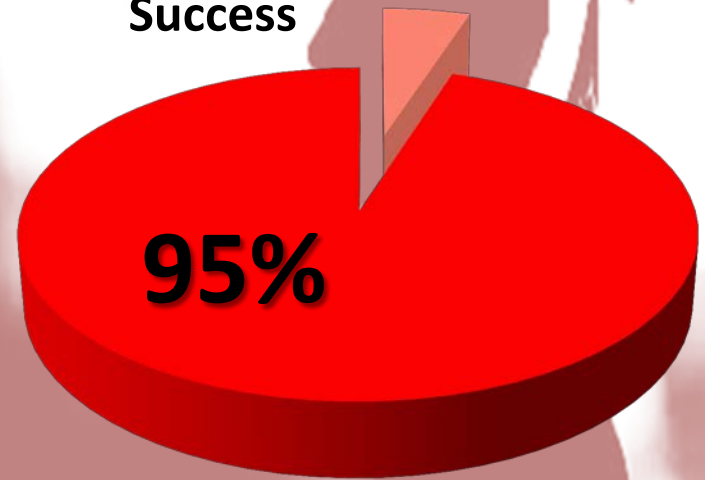
Stopping the Leak

Hopes, Plans and Dreams

**Middle School
Students Say
“No Chance” of
Dropping Out of
High School**



**High School
Students Say
Graduating High
School is Critical
to Future
Success**



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Questions



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