

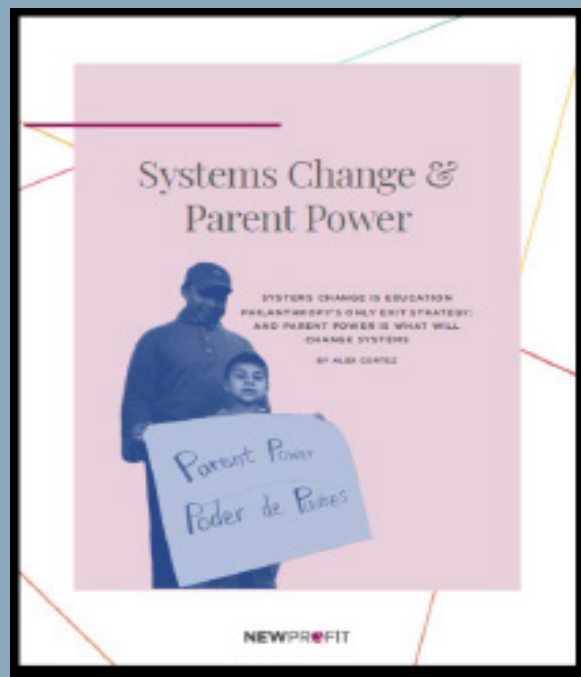
STARTING WITH MINDSETS

Developing the infrastructure needed to sustain and embed parent leadership in system change requires us to challenge thinking and transform relationships with parents; from parents as clients to parents as partners. Starting with mindsets lays the foundation for equitable system change

Questions to Guide Mindset Exploration

These questions were developed from content in *Systems Change and Parent Power* written by Alex Cortez.

- Who currently holds the power?
- Do you recognize that your system is a political system and often reflects the agenda and values of people of privilege?
- Is your system currently representative and responsive to the needs identified by the parents and community?
- Do you recognize that the system is very good at organizing itself to protect the status quo?
- Do you recognize for the system to change the power flow must be disrupted?
- Do you recognize that in order to genuinely build trusted relationships with parents and communities we must slow down and learn to listen to their wisdom?
- What voices are currently missing in planning, decision-making and policy development?
- What roles do parent and communities have in driving change?



Cortez, A. *Systems Change & Parent Power*. Boston, MA: New Profit, 2020.

[*Systems Change & Parent Power*](#)

Shifting Mindsets

Starting with mindsets lays the foundation to move forward with clarity for why parent leadership and voice is a key equity strategy that must be in place