

# The Positive Relationship Between Family Involvement and Student Success

- The more parent and community involvement activities focus on improving student learning, the more student learning improves.
- Children whose parents are advocates for them at school are more confident at school and take on and achieve more.
- Family involvement improves student success, regardless of race/ethnicity, class, or parents' level of education.
- Engaging community members, businesses, and organizations as partners in children's education can improve the learning community.

# Standard 1 **Welcoming All Families into the School Community**

- Families are active participants and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.
- Creating a Welcoming Climate: When families walk into the building, do they feel the school is inviting and is a place where they “belong”?

## Standard 1

### Welcoming All Families into the School Community

- Bingo sheets to find places, people and things in school.
- Paint Night – provide art supplies and food.
- Bilingual flyers to go home to families.
- Holiday Event – invite First Responders – Dentist – Sports – Safety Personnel etc. Provide school supplies for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Use District resources and services.

# Standard 2 Communicating Effectively

Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

Sharing Information Between School and Families: Does the school keep all families informed about important issues and events and make it easy for families to communicate with teachers?

## Standard 2 Communicating Effectively

- Clearly define program expectations and goals.
- One on one conversations are most effective. Evaluate the sign-out process.
- Incorporate text messages in a communications strategy.
- Engage the assistance of school staff to advertise events and activities.

# Standard 3 Supporting Student Success

Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Sharing Information About Student Progress: Do families know and understand how well their children are succeeding in school and how well the entire school is progressing?

## Standard 3 Supporting Student Success

- Available access to resources to meet non-academic needs.
- Grouping younger and older students to support learning.
- Program to reward students for success, like kindness, that can be used to “buy” school supplies with their rewards from a student store.
- Students teach their families a new skill – computer research, an art project, math game.

# Standard 4 Speaking Up for Every Child

Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Understanding How the School System Works: Do parents know how the local school and district operate and how to raise questions or concerns about school and district programs, policies, and activities? Do they understand their rights and responsibilities under federal and state law as well as local ordinances and policies?



## Standard 4 Speaking Up for Every Child

- Parent field trips to school board meetings.
- Parent Life Skills classes during student program time.
- Culturally relevant curriculum. Use families to help teach students and model cultural practices.
- Mini parent/teacher conversations to let families know how their student is progressing.

# Standard 5 Sharing Power

Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Strengthening the Family's Voice in Shared Decision Making:  
Are all families full partners in making decisions that affect their children at school and in the community?

## Standard 5 Sharing Power

- Coffee with the Program Director monthly.
- Invite public officials to attend events.
- Offer opportunities for families to meet with public officials and district personnel to build a community of trust.
- Ask families what they need for their students to be successful.

# Standard 6 Collaborating with Community

Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Connecting the School with Community Resources: Do parent and school leaders work closely with community organizations, businesses, and institutions of higher education to strengthen the school, make resources available to students, school staff, and families, and build a family-friendly community?

## Standard 6 Collaborating with Community

- Engage with local businesses. Can they provide tutors? Food for family events? Speakers about their jobs? One on one discussions with families about job skills?
- Reach out to the neighborhood association. What are the program needs – ask for assistance.
- Start a conversation with a local Senior Center. How can the two organizations collaborate?
- Work with tribal elders, local health organizations, and environmental organizations for support and curriculum.

# **Community Service: Reasons to Get Involved**

**Why should a family lend a helping hand?**

- It feels good**
- It strengthens the community**
- It can strengthen the family**

# **What Kids Can Learn From Volunteering**

- **A sense of responsibility**
- **That one person can make a difference**
- **The benefit of sacrifice**
- **Tolerance**
- **Job skills**
- **How to fill time wisely**

**Thank you!**

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