

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

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Agenda

- How to help parents promote academic success and career development
 - ▣ Knowledge
 - ▣ Skills
 - ▣ Resources



Parent Involvement

❖ Towards a multidimensional definition



Model #1

- ❑ Overlapping spheres of influence
 - ❑ Home, school, & community

- ❑ Six types of involvement:
 - ❑ Parenting
 - ❑ Communicating
 - ❑ Volunteering
 - ❑ Learning at home
 - ❑ Decision-making (leadership roles)
 - ❑ Collaborating with the community



Epstein's OSI (1995, 2009)

Model #2



Parents' Motivation To Become Involved (Level 1)



Types of Parent Involvement (Levels 1.5 and 2)



Student Perception of Parent Involvement (Level 3)



Student Outcomes (Levels 4 and 5)

Hoover-Dempsey & Sandler's Model of Parent Involvement (1995, 1997, 2005)

Parents' Motivation to Become Involved

- Beliefs
 - E.g., self-efficacy, parental role construction

- Perception of Invitation to Get Involved
 - E.g., general, teacher, student

- Life Context
 - E.g., time, energy, skills, knowledge)

- Family Culture

Types of Parent Involvement

- Frequency and quality of four forms of involvement

- Values, goals, expectations, aspirations
- Home-based activities
- Parent-teacher-school communications
- School-based involvement

Level 1.5

- Mechanisms of involvement

- Encouragement
- Modeling
- Reinforcement
- Instruction

Level 2

Student Perceptions of Parent Involvement

- Children are active architects of their own development

- Mediation hypothesis of parent involvement
 - ▣ Parent involvement influences student outcomes via students' perceptions of their parents' actions
 - ▣ Learning is an interactive process that includes integrating knowledge and information from social resources and engaging with that resource
 - ▣ Parents are a social resource (similar to teachers)

Student Outcomes

- Proximal Learning Conducive to Achievement

- Development of child's own inner resources

- Academic self-efficacy

- Social self-efficacy for relating to teachers

- Intrinsic motivation

- Self-regulatory strategies

Level 4

- Student Achievement

- Scores on standardized summative assessments

Level 5

Benefits of Parent Involvement



❖ Research

- ❖ Increased schools' average daily attendance (ADA)
- ❖ Reduced chronic absenteeism
- ❖ Reduction in disruptive behaviors, referrals to principal, and suspension from school
- ❖ Achievement in specific subjects (e.g., reading, math, science)
- ❖ Higher scores on standardized achievement tests
- ❖ Increased graduation rates
- ❖ Decreased drug and alcohol use

Challenges for Parents



- ❖ Lack awareness of the expectations to monitor their child's education
- ❖ Lack awareness of the ability to interface with school personnel directly
- ❖ Language barriers
- ❖ Long working hours
- ❖ Child care issues
- ❖ Transportation issues
- ❖ May experience school environment as unwelcoming, threatening, or even disrespectful to them

Fostering Parent Involvement



- ❖ Conduct a needs assessment
 - ❖ Data-driven or perception-based
- ❖ Identify stakeholders
- ❖ Create outcome goals
- ❖ Brainstorm strategies for dealing with challenges
- ❖ Direct intervention or program
- ❖ Measure outcomes
- ❖ Share results and use for program improvement

Type of Involvement	Prevention	Intervention
Parenting	Plan and implement workshops for parents on topics of interest; conduct parent-to-parent forums to connect diverse families	Conduct crisis interventions when problems arise
Communicating	Conduct workshops and prepare printed materials on report-card grading, graduation requirements, test score reports	Meet with individual students who fail courses or are at-risk
Volunteering	Create parent talent pool, invite parents to speak on career day, organize involvement	Meet with parents of students with problems to conduct home reinforcement activities
Learning at home	Help all families understand how to help students succeed	Conduct individual meetings w/families on performance, homework, & study skills
Decision-making	Inform and engage parents through multiple media	Serve as an advocate for families with specific concerns or complaints
Community Collaborations	Identify and coordinate community resources	Make referrals for needed medical, mental health, and social services

Increasing School's Capacity for Engaging Parents/Families

- Address attitudes of school personnel
- Develop a welcoming staff
 - ▣ Bilingual staff
 - ▣ Parent liaisons
 - ▣ Teach communication skills
- Socio-cultural awareness & sensitivity
- Foster sensitivity to nontraditional caregivers
- Help teachers learn about their students through contact with the family
- Assign interactive homework

Increasing Parents' Capacity for Involvement

- Assess attitudes of parent involvement
- Train parent liaisons to establish & maintain contact
- Remind parents that they are uniquely positioned to support their child's education (e.g., support, advocacy, modeling, high aspirations, etc.)
- Prepare parents for interactions at parent-teacher conferences
- Personal phone calls or notes are more effective
- Make parents feel important and comfortable
- Provide parent education programs
- Invite new parents to visit the school
- Address barriers to parent attendance

Resources



- Handout – “Promoting Academic Success at Home”

- www.partnershipschools.org
 - More than 700 activities

- PTA Goes to Work: Parent Guide
 - Guidelines for elementary, middle, and high school parent involvement
 - Pathways to career preparation

- Empowered Parents (ASCA School Counselor article by Stevenson, Metz, & Snow, 2010)