

ENGAGING PARTNERS

Partnerships with families, neighbors, and other community members strengthen the culture and climate of a school. The more people invested in the success of the educators, the greater the opportunity for student success. While engaging families is critical to understanding the strengths each family must support their students, this engagement provides educators insights into racial and ethnic differences. This awareness is the first step on the road to social justice.

PROMOTING FAMILY-COMMUNITY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Streamline Communication

- Coordinate updated and consistent communication systems.
- Sensitive to language and technology access
- Consistency

Build Relationships

- Dedicate time to families.
- Solicit families' ideas and opinions

Engagement Strategies

- Faith-based organizations
- Safety organizations - police
- Collaborate with services for coordination.

	Streamline Communication	Build Relationships	Engagement Strategies
School Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep current family contact information • Coordinate consistent use of school communication systems or apps • Create directories that help identify after-school recreation, tutorial programs, health services, cultural events, and service opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask family representatives to serve on the school's action team • Dedicate time, interest, and attention, and emotional support to families • Connect with community liaisons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage faith-based organizations and safety institutions (i.e., police, fire dept., etc.) • Collaborate with the community services to coordinate resources • Engage families in school activities
Family Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide directories for family participation in after-school recreation, tutorial programs, health services, cultural events, and service opportunities • Include two-way communication activities for families, students, and partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give families a voice in developing mission statements and in designing, reviewing, and improving school policies • Listen to families' ideas and opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create family school activities • Create activities to enable students, staff, and families to become engaged in community service or projects together

EPSTEIN'S SIX TYPES OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT



- **Parenting:** establish a home environment to support children as students
- **Communicating:** design effective forms of school to home and home to school communications about school programs and children's progress
- **Volunteering:** support in the classroom, at events, or on school committees.
- **Learning at home:** helping students with their homework and other curriculum learning activities, decisions, and planning
- **Decision-making:** serve as representatives and leaders on school committees, developing parent leaders
- **Collaboration:** Identifying and integrating resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs.

KEY COMPONENTS OF EFFECTIVE PARTNER INVOLVEMENT

Community Members:

- Neighbors can be a source of information about student safety coming and going from school.
- Businesses can provide financial support.
- Religious organizations can be a source of volunteers.

Communication

- Keep current family contact information.
- Have a functioning emergency contact system.
- Have all communication to families available in the home languages of the students.

Relationships

- Dedicate time and emotional support for families.
- Develop family/school activities.
- Greet families when they drop off their kids.

