

Project Number: 2017-1-IT02-KA201-036784

Guidelines for Increased Family Involvement in School Life¹

| Type of involvement | Goal | Suggested practices |
|---------------------|---|---|
| PARENTING | Help families establish safe and nurturing home environments. | • Parent education and other courses or training for parents. |
| | | Family support programs to assist families with health, nutrition, and other services. |
| | | Inquire about family values and parenting practices. |
| | | Ask parents about their needs and provide necessary services. |
| COMMUNICATING | Establish and maintain effective culturally responsive communication with parents and family members. | Focus on mutual goals and interests. Reframe problems into objectives. |
| | | Make consultations available to all parents with follow-ups as needed. |
| | | Use inclusive terminology and materials. Arrange for translators to assist immigrant families. |
| | | Develop regular, reliable, varied two- way communication systems (phone calls, group email lists, social media etc.). |
| | | Conduct needs assessments and surveys of what parents expect of the school community. |
| VOLUNTEERING | Raise and coordinate family help and support. | Schedule surveys to identify interests, talents, and availability of volunteers. |
| | | • Invite family members as guest speakers in class and at public events. |
| | | Initiate service projects, working together on neighborhood political and social issues. |
| | | Host social events and multicultural |

¹ Based on Epstein, et. al. 2009. School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action, Third Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc.





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| LEARNING AT HOME | Enhance family support for student self- preparation, decisions and planning. | Advise parents how to assist students appropriately on various school assignments. |
| | | • Examine study conditions at home and recommend plausible optimizations. |
| | | Counsel families about setting student goals and planning for higher education or work. |
| | | Discuss individual learning styles and educational needs with parents. Assert that good effort and attitude are just as important as good grades. |
| DECISION MAKING | Reinforce parent leadership by including families in school decisions. | Encourage parents to participate in advisory boards and committees designed to address school issues. |
| | | Invite and integrate parent reactions to school policies and practice. |
| | | Sponsor networking events to link families with parent representatives. |
| | | Collaborate with independent advocacy groups to lobby and work for school reform and improvements. |
| COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY | Provide services to the community and use its resources to strengthen student, family and school relationships. | Inform students and families about community health, cultural, recreational, social support, and other programs or services. |
| | | Organize student awards, scholarships, mentorship and other educational programs and activities together with community partners. |
| | | Involve students and their families in charitable work, neighbourhood political and social issues and fundraising campaigns for community causes. |