

Guidelines for Increased Family Involvement in School Life¹

Type of involvement	Goal	Suggested practices
PARENTING	Help families establish safe and nurturing home environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

