

Creating a Plan for Improving Family-School Partnerships

***SAU 53 - Pembroke, Allenstown,
Chichester, Epsom, and Deerfield
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Today's Objectives

- Strategize ways to increase family/school partnerships and discuss ways to overcome the barriers
- Create an action plan to implement ideas/strategies you have learned throughout the two sessions



Defining Parent Involvement



- ◊ Why is parent involvement important?



What the Research Says

Students with involved parents, no matter what their income or background, are more likely to:

- earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs.
- be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits.
- attend school regularly.
- have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school.
- graduate and go on to postsecondary education.

A New Wave of Evidence - The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement - Anne T. Henderson & Karen L. Mapp, published by SEDL.

What Does Research Say to Do?

“Programs that successfully connect with families and community invite involvement, are welcoming, and address specific parent and community needs.”

A New Wave of Evidence. Dr. Karen Mapp, Director, Institute for Responsive Education



Six Types of Parent Involvement

- 1) **Parenting** - Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
- 2) **Communicating** - Communication between home and school is regular, two way, and meaningful.
- 3) **Volunteering** - Parents are welcome in the school and their support and assistance are sought.
- 4) **Student Learning** - Parents play an integral role in helping students learn.
- 5) **School Decision-Making and Advocacy** - Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
- 6) **Collaborating with the Community** - Community resources are utilized to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

The First Step to Involving Families: Communication

One-Way



OR

Two-Way



How are you communicating with families

- Would you describe it as a two-way system or one-way?



Effective Parent-Teacher Communication: **One-Way Communication**

One-Way Communication:

- is linear and limited because it occurs in a straight line from sender to receiver and serves to inform, persuade, or command.

Two-Way Communication

- Two-way communication *always* includes *feedback* from the receiver to the sender that lets the sender know the message has been *received accurately*.
- In two-way communication both sender and receiver listen to each other and work toward a clear understanding.

(Adapted from Harcourt Assessment, 2004)



Small Group Activity

Involving Parents: Barriers and Solutions



Action Plans

- ✓ What steps will you take to achieve your goal?
- ✓ Whose help do you need?
- ✓ Who is taking responsibility for this task?
- ✓ When will it get done?
- ✓ How will you know you succeeded?



Involving Families: Creating a Plan of Action

Individual Action Plan Grid

Objective

Action Step	Who is Responsible? (Who will authorize?) (Who will lead?)	Whose Help Do You Need? (Who will participate?)	Required Resources	Evidence of Success	Date to Complete

A decorative border on the left side of the slide, featuring a green chalkboard background. It includes two pieces of pink chalk, one standing upright and one lying horizontally. There are also white chalk markings, including a curved line and a large, faint letter 'Y' or similar shape.

Next Steps...

What is your plan of action when you leave here today?



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