

FACTS ABOUT FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

The evidence from research is clear and consistent: families have a major influence on their children's achievement. The successful outcomes of parent/family involvement happen regardless of parents' level of education, socioeconomic status, or ethnic/racial background.

Joyce Epstein of Johns Hopkins University says: "There are many reasons for developing school, family, and community partnerships. The main reason to create such partnerships is to help all youngsters succeed in school and in later life."

When parents are involved, students have:

- higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates,
- better School Attendance,
- increased motivation, better self-esteem,
- lower rates of suspension,
- decreased use of drugs and alcohol, and
- fewer instances of violent behavior.

The more intensely parents are involved, the more beneficial the achievement effects. In fact, family participation in education is twice as predictive of students' academic success as family socioeconomic status.

Parents contribute to student achievement by:

- reading to their children,
- having books available,
- taking trips,
- guiding TV watching, and
- providing stimulating experiences.

Families whose children are doing well in school tend to do the following:

- Establish a daily family routine for studying.
- Monitor out-of-school activities.
- Model the value of learning, self-discipline and hard work.
- Express high but realistic expectations for achievement.
- Encourage children's development/progress in school.
- Encourage reading, writing and discussions among family members.

When schools, families, and community work together, here's how EVERYBODY WINS!

- Teachers feel better about teaching.
- Families are more invested in working with schools to support teaching and learning.
- Parents, teachers & school leaders communicate more regularly about student progress.
- The broader community becomes more invested in supporting public education.
- And most importantly, students experience greater success in school.

Source: Michigan Education Department. Taken from page 48 Parent and Family Involvement: A Guide to Effective Parent, Family, and Community Involvement in North Carolina Schools



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