

Starting points: An inventory of present practices of school, family, and community partnerships

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This inventory will help you identify your school’s present practices for each of the six types of involvement. Your action team should complete this inventory with input from teachers, parents, the school improvement team, and others, as appropriate. After you complete the inventory, write a one-year action plan for partnerships.

Directions: Check the activities that your school conducts and circle all of the grade levels presently involved. You may write in other activities for each type of involvement that your school conducts. To note how well each activity is implemented, add these symbols next to the checkbox.

- * *Very well implemented with all families*
- + *Good start with many families*
- *Needs improvement*

TYPE 1 – PARENTING: Assist families in understanding child and adolescent development and in setting home conditions that support children as students. Assist schools in understanding family backgrounds, cultures, and goals.	In which grades?
<input type="checkbox"/> We sponsor parent education workshops and other courses or training for parents.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We provide families with information on child or adolescent development.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We conduct family support programs with parent-to-parent discussion groups.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We provide families with information on developing home conditions that support learning.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We lend families books, audiotapes, and videotapes/DVDs on parenting or parent workshops.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We sponsor home visiting programs or neighborhood meetings to help families understand schools and to help schools understand families.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
TYPE 2 – COMMUNICATING: Communicate effectively from school to home and from home to school about school programs and children’s progress.	In which grades?
<input type="checkbox"/> We provide language translators/interpreters to assist families as needed.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We provide clear information about report cards and how grades are earned.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We provide clear information about state tests and student and school results.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Our school newsletter includes:	
<input type="checkbox"/> A calendar of school events.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Student activity information.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum and program information.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> School volunteer information.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

<input type="checkbox"/> School policy information.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Samples of student writing and artwork.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> A column to address parents' questions.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Recognition of students, families, and community members.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> A column on activities for family and community involvement.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We send home folders of student work weekly or monthly for parent review and comments.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Staff members send home positive messages about students on a regular basis.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We notify families about student awards and recognition.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We contact families of students having academic or behavior problems.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Teachers and administrators have e-mail and/or a school website to communicate with parents.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents have the telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses of the school, principal, teachers, and counselors.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We have an automated phone system to deliver messages to families.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We conduct an annual survey for families to provide reactions to school programs and share information and concerns about students.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
TYPE 3 – VOLUNTEERING: INVOLVEMENT AT AND FOR THE SCHOOL Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students.	In which grades?
<input type="checkbox"/> We conduct annual surveys to identify interests, talents, and availability of volunteers and the needs of teachers and administrators for volunteers.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We provide initial and ongoing training and guidance to our volunteers.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We have a parent room or family center for volunteer work, meetings, and resources for families.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
We encourage families and the community to be involved at school by:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Assisting in classrooms (tutoring, grading papers, etc.).	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Helping on trips or at parties.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Giving talks (careers, cultures, hobbies, etc.).	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring halls or working in the library, cafeteria, or other areas.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Leading clubs or activities.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Serving as audiences at student assemblies, events, sports, etc.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We provide ways for families to be involved at home or in the community if they cannot volunteer at school.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We have a program to recognize and thank our volunteers.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
<input type="checkbox"/> We schedule plays, concerts, games, and other events at different times of the day or evening so that all parents can attend some activities.	K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

<p>TYPE 4 – LEARNING AT HOME: INVOLVEMENT IN ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES Involve families with their children in homework, other curriculum-related activities, course and program choices, and plans for the future.</p>	<p>In which grades?</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We conduct family nights or other workshops to help parents understand school subjects and learn ways to help their children at home.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We have a regular schedule of interactive homework that requires students to show and discuss what they are learning with a family member.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We provide calendars with daily or weekly activities linked to grade level requirements for families to select and conduct at home.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We provide summer learning packets to help students sustain school skills.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We provide information on Web sites with learning resources for students.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p>TYPE 5 – DECISION MAKING: PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP Include families as participants in school decisions, and develop parent leaders and representatives.</p>	<p>In which grades?</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We have an active PTA, PTO, or other parent organization.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Parent representatives are on the school council, school improvement team, or other school committees.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We have an action team for partnerships to develop a goal-oriented program with practices for all six types of involvement.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Parent representatives are on a district-level advisory council or committee.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We develop formal networks to link all families with their parent representatives for decision making.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We use e-mail and quick surveys to obtain parents' input and ideas on school policies.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We include parent representatives in professional development workshops for members of the school council, ATP, and PTA or PTO.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p>TYPE 6 – COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community.</p>	<p>In which grades?</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We provide a resource directory for parents and students with information on community agencies, programs, and services.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We provide information on community activities that link to learning skills and talents, including summer programs for students.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We offer afterschool programs for students with support from community businesses, agencies, or volunteers.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We sponsor intergenerational programs with local senior citizen groups.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> We provide one-stop shopping for family services through partnerships of school, counseling, health, recreation, job training, and other agencies.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Our school building is open for use by the community after school hours.</p>	<p>K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>

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