

Increasing Family Involvement

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IS IMPORTANT

Schools that work and provide opportunities for families to actively engage families in learning receive the benefit. Research tells us that when families are engaged in the education of their children, results of the following may be noted:

- Children earn higher grades and test scores,
- Increased promotion rates and credits,
- Improved attendance rates,
- Improvement in social skills resulting in fewer behavioral instances, and
- Increased graduation rates.



WAYS TO INVOLVE FAMILIES IN YOUR CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL

- **Online** foster an online presence. Post comments, homework assignments, requests for service, and inspiring notes about what is happening in your class, school, or district.
- **Photo** Add a photo to your newsletter, emails, and other communications. People work better with a face.
- **Checklist** Create a checklist of several ways a family may get involved. Ask the family to fill it out.
- **Partner** Create a two-way communication with the family. Present it as a Partnership.
- **Meet** the family in a social setting. Get to know what interests them.
- **Ask** More people volunteer when asked.
- **Call** families and make personal contact. Your voice is nice to hear.
- **Buddy** Create a buddy system. Much like a carpool shares driving, share involvement.
- **Welcome** Create a welcome letter that tells the family a little about you.
- **Consolidate** the parent teacher meetings (for all the children in the family).
- **Study** Send home the research that demonstrates why family involvement is important and its impact on learning.
- **Game It** Create a game out of parental involvement. Give parents points for participation.
- **Time** Be sensitive to the time families have to get involved. Make it short and sweet.
- **Share** the highlights of the students day.
- **Inventory** Take a family inventory. Find out if any of the family members have special skills you can call upon.
- **Safety** Foster a safe location free from family conflict and other hard times.
- **Host** Ask parents to host different events. Help recruit workers.
- **Incorporate** what the family does for a living.
- **Plan** events and meetings well in advance.
- **Text** Use 21st Century technology to communicate with families. Text, Email, Skype, FaceTime.



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- **Teambuild** Build a cohesive unit of all families. Create an environment they want to come to.
- **Raise-Up** Build trust with a few leading families. Raise them up to help engage other families.
- **Take-Out** Create take-home projects that you need done for parents to do on their off time.
- **Thank** Tell the family Thank You.
- **Fun** Conduct fun interactive meetings. Play games, relax, talk, and get to know each other.
- **Brainstorm** with families. Ask what motives them to be involved. Ask for their insight on why other parents are not involved.
- **Breath** At the end of the day everyone is tired. Once you have done all you can, relax and breath.
- **Native Language** Develop materials and communications in the family's native language to increase understanding and participation.

APEC IS HERE TO HELP

APEC provides free training, information, and consultation to families and schools. Visit our training calendar for more information about learning opportunities at www.alabamaparentcenter.com or call our center to schedule your own community training or educator in-service.

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RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

Almost 30 years of research and experience has demonstrated that the education of children with disabilities can be made more effective by... strengthening the role and responsibility of parents and ensuring that families ... have meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children at school and at home.

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www.centerforpubliceducation.org

<http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/sixtypes.htm>

<http://www.ed.gov/parent-and-family-engagement>



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