

Special Education Family-School Partnerships

What's in it for Me?

The research is clear- when schools and families work together to support learning, children do better in school, stay in school longer and like school more. This sounds like a simple concept, but it can often be difficult to make a reality. Why should people work together? People need to know *what's it in for me?* Ultimately, family-school partnerships in special education are about *what's in it for all of us!*

SCHOOL STAFF'S PERSPECTIVE

Parent Input-Partnerships with families help keep things real and relevant, resulting in more practical and identifiable outcomes.

Ability-Partnerships provide the ability for a school district to develop the leadership and communication skills of its parents.

Relationships-Partnerships provide a vehicle to strengthen relationships between parents, and the school district.

Team-Partnerships encourage communication and the development of a team.

New Ideas-Partnerships allow for discussions and feedback about school activities in a safe and constructive way.

Engagement-Partnerships encourage parents to be more active in their school and better prepare them to support school initiatives.

Respect-Partnerships foster respect and shared responsibilities among, parents, teachers, and school leaders.

Staff Development-Partnerships provide staff and parents the opportunity to gain knowledge and resources beyond their own area of expertise.

Heard-Partnerships allow for parents and school personnel to gain more accurate and positive views about each other's attitudes, intentions, and abilities and to be heard.

Increased Effectiveness-Partnerships allow for discussion from a variety of perspectives. School staff can gain a better understanding of the concerns of families and learn ways to address them, increasing their effectiveness in working with families and other staff.

Provide Two-Way Communication-Partnerships provide an opportunity to communicate with families that school staff does not have to manage!



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PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Personal Connection-Partnerships allow for parents to connect with school personnel outside of the special education/IEP process.

Ability-Partnerships provide the ability and opportunity for parents to develop their leadership and communication skills.

Relationships-Partnerships provide a vehicle to strengthen relationships between parents, staff, and the school district.

Team-Partnerships encourage communication and the development of a team.

New Ideas-Partnerships allow for discussions and feedback about parent concerns and school initiatives in a safe and constructive way.

Engagement-Partnerships provide opportunities for parents to be more active in their school/school district and better prepared to support their child's learning.

Respect-Partnerships foster respect and shared responsibilities among, parents, teachers, and school leaders.

Staff Development-Partnerships provide staff and parents the opportunity to gain knowledge and resources beyond their own area of expertise.

Heard-Partnerships allow for parents and school personnel to gain more accurate and positive views about each other's attitudes, intentions, and abilities and to be heard.

Increased Effectiveness-Partnerships allow for discussion from a variety of perspectives. Parents can gain a better understanding of the concerns of school district personnel and learn ways to address them, increasing their effectiveness working with their child's IEP team.

Provide Two-Way Communication-Partnerships provide an opportunity for families and school staff to have open, two-way communication.

APEC provides free training, information, and consultation to families. Visit our training calendar for more information about learning opportunities at www.alabamaparentcenter.com or call our center. The contents of this publication were developed in part under a grant from the US Department of Education, #H328M110024. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. School Home Partners V.4 Special Ed Partnerships



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