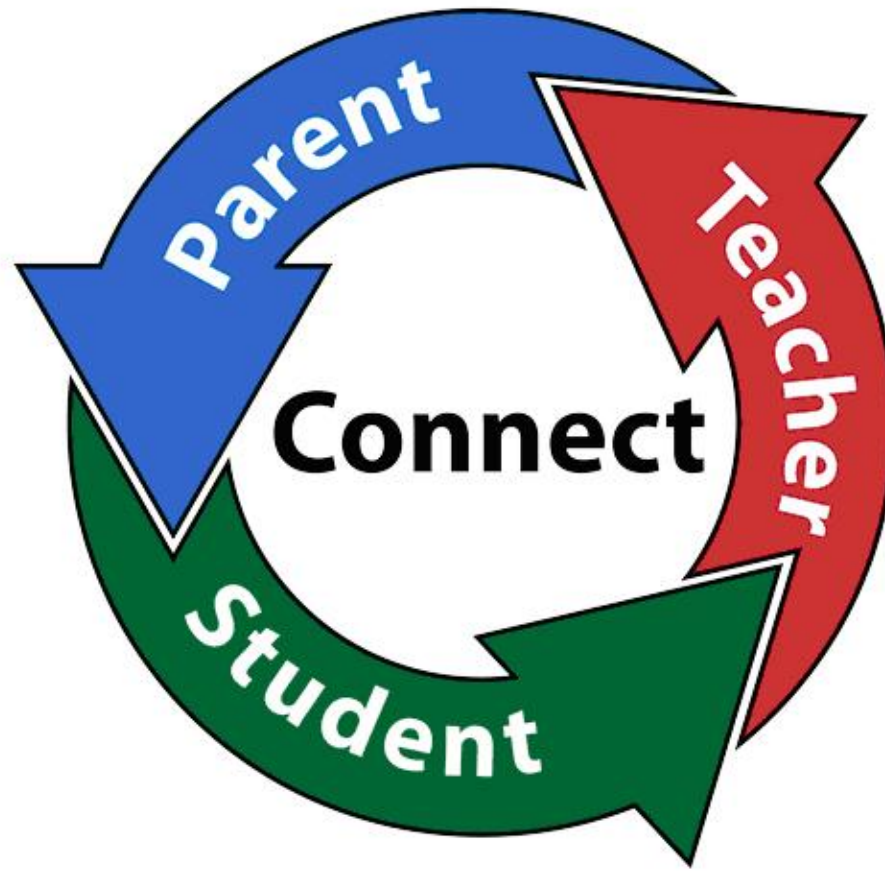


Parental Involvement



6 Types of Parental Involvement

- Based on the work of Dr. Joyce Epstein
- Look at what your school is currently doing
- Different methods or types of parental involvement work for different groups of parents



6 Types of Parental Involvement

- Parenting
- Communicating
- Learning at Home
- Volunteering
- Decision Making
- Collaborating with Community



helping
children
to succeed

6 Types of Parental Involvement Parenting

- Schools help families and caregivers understand the growth and development of their children
- Help with:
 - Parenting and child-rearing skills
 - Understanding child and adolescent development
 - Establishing age- and grade-appropriate home conditions that support children as students
- Families provide information to schools so educators and administrators can better understand families' backgrounds, cultures, and goals for their children



6 Types of Parental Involvement Parenting – Sample Activities

- Hosting family learning workshops on topics suggested by parents, held at times and places easily accessible to all parents, and providing childcare
- Providing families with information on child development
- Providing families with information about developing home conditions that support school learning
- Arranging support groups for families with special interests and needs
- Providing guidance to parents on transitioning children to middle and high school



6 Types of Parental Involvement

Communicating

- School-to-home and home-to-school communications about the district, school, and classroom programs as well as student progress
- Help with:
 - Understanding between school and home
 - Cooperation between school and home
 - Showing students that their parents and teachers are working together to help them succeed
- Encourages families to provide reactions, ideas, and preferences to the school as well as ask questions about student progress and the school's programs



6 Types of Parental Involvement

Communicating – Sample Activities

- Scheduling parent-teacher-student conferences to establish student learning goals for the year
- Staff members sending home positive messages about students
- Staff members making home visits
- Involving families in student award and recognition events
- Encouraging and making provisions for staff members to communicate with parents about their children's progress several times each semester



6 Types of Parental Involvement

Learning at Home

- Students are the primary participants in learning at home activities, as their homework is essentially their responsibility. Families and parents can enhance the impact of learning at home through their involvement
- Helps with:
 - Information and ideas about the academic work their children do in class
 - Coordinating what is happening in the classroom and activities at home
 - How to help their children with homework.
 - Communications with the teacher



6 Types of Parental Involvement

Learning at Home – Sample Activities

- Having specific goals and activities that keep parents informed about and supportive of their children's homework
- Offering learning activities and events for the whole family
- Inviting parents to borrow resources from school libraries for themselves and their families
- Helping parents understand student assessments, including report cards and testing, and how to help students improve
- Including parents and other community members in developing children's learning outside of school activities



6 Types of Parental Involvement

Volunteering

- Families are enabled to share their time and talent to support the school, classrooms, teachers, students, and their children
- Volunteering does not have to take place within the school or classroom walls
 - Helping in the library, computer room, family room, resource room, playground, or lunch room
 - Assisting with after school programs or field trips
 - Attending student performances, extracurricular activities, assemblies, celebrations, and other events
- Volunteers tell students, faculty and the community that parents care about the school and its students



6 Types of Parental Involvement

Volunteering – Sample Activities

- Gathering information about the level and frequency of family and community members participation in school programs
- Offering youth service learning opportunities for students who want to volunteer in the community
- Assisting school staff to learn how to work with parent and community volunteers
- Offering volunteer opportunities for single parents
- Having a program to recognize school volunteers



6 Types of Parental Involvement Decision Making

- Parents' voices must be heard when it comes to decision making at the school
- Helps with:
 - Enabling families to participate in decisions about the school's programs and activities that will impact their own and other children
 - Involving all parents
- Having families as true stakeholders in the school creates feelings of ownership of the school's programs and activities



6 Types of Parental Involvement

Decision Making – Sample Activities

- Encouraging parents to attend school improvement team meetings
- Assigning staff members to help parents address concerns or complaints
- Inviting staff and parent groups to meet collaboratively, providing space and time to do so
- Helping families advocate for each other
- Involving parents in:
 - Planning orientation programs for new families
 - Developing parenting skills programs
 - Hiring staff members



6 Types of Parental Involvement

Collaborating with Community

- Communities have a significant role to play in the education, development, and well-being of students
- Helps with:
 - Encouraging and supporting the cooperation between schools, families, community groups, organizations, agencies, and individuals
 - Identifying and integrating community resources (human, economic, material, or social) to improve schools, strengthen families, and assist students to succeed



6 Types of Parental Involvement

Collaborating with Community – Sample Activities

- Acting as a source of information and referral about services available for families in the community
- Encouraging local civic and service groups to become involved in schools in a variety of ways such as mentoring students, volunteering, speaking to classes, and helping with fundraising events
- Encouraging staff and students to participate in youth service-learning opportunities
- Opening school buildings for use by the community beyond the regular school hours
- Having a program with local businesses that enhances student work skills

