

TOOLKIT



D A D S

**TAKE YOUR CHILD TO
SCHOOL DAY 9.30.15**







FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

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To assist with planning for Dads Take Your Child to School Day, the following items can be found within this toolkit*:

- ✓ Research and Overview
- ✓ School Planning Support

Separate files within the toolkit:

- ✓ Sample Letter to Parents/Guardians 
- ✓ Sample Letter to the Community 
- ✓ Sample Flyer 
- ✓ Sample Invitations (half-sheet) 
- ✓ Sample Social Media posts with photos
- ✓ Logos for both printing and web posting

*This is an evolving document that we will continue to update in the weeks leading up to September 30, 2015. Please keep in mind that this is only a guide. We encourage each district, school and teacher to implement innovative promotion strategies and appropriate events that will lead to the most memorable and meaningful experiences possible for our students and their families.

Research and Overview

The continuum of research, policy development and program implementation related to family involvement supports emphasis on engaging fathers as a means of increasing student achievement.

More than 30 years of research findings have maintained the belief that a positive relationship exists between increased family engagement and student academic success. Although specific research into the impact of the father's role in a child's academic development is growing, findings¹ suggest that when fathers are actively involved in their child's schools, students:

- Perform better academically;
- Have fewer discipline problems; and
- Become more responsible adults.

A recent meta-analysis² found that the overall effect of involvement of fathers in education was positive regardless of the child's age, race and expressions of involvement.

Annual one-day initiatives have been promoted by various states across the country; to highlight the significance of a child's father or male caregiver in his or her education. Typically, initiatives are held in the fall in alignment with other Back to School initiatives.

J. Michael Hall, founder and president of Strong Fathers³, on a recent webinar entitled Engaging Fathers in Student Learning⁴, noted that from his organization's work with fathers, greater participation is realized when programs are:

- Interactive (Activities engage interaction with father and child)
- Relational (Fathers learning from other fathers)
- Relevant (Link to learning)

Those practices closely align to the Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships⁵ Process Conditions. The conditions emphasized in the framework are important to building the capacity of families and schools to effectively partner in ways that improve student outcomes.

¹ *A Call to Commitment: Fathers' Involvement in Children's Learning*. (2000, June 1). Retrieved April 14, 2015, from <http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/parents/calltocommit/index.html>.

² Jeynes, W. H. (2014). A Meta-Analysis: The Relationship Between Father Involvement and Student Academic Achievement. *Urban Education*, 0042085914525789.

³ www.strongfathers.com

⁴ Webinar hosted by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Family Engagement Technical Assistance group, Manhattan Strategy (see attached notes).

⁵ <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/family-community/partners-education.pdf> or <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/family-community/partnership-frameworks.doc>

School Support Document

- Convene a site planning committee made up of the school's leadership team, Parent Teacher Organizations (PTA/PTO), School Advisory Councils (SAC) and/or other school-based parent organizations.

Site planning considerations:

- ✓ Capture attendance/participation
 - Make every effort to reach out to all dads or other male role models. Keep in mind some may not be as confident or as comfortable participating in the event, so brainstorm ways to recruit and encourage them to participate.
- ✓ Advertisement/Promotion
 - Create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) or catch phrase, such as "Come celebrate with us in each and every way, by taking part in Dads Take Your Child to School Day."
 - Ask local newspaper(s), radio and television stations to run the PSA or an article about the event.
 - Pass out flyers at parent meetings and afterschool programs.
 - Get the community involved in promoting and supporting the event.
- ✓ Identify launch location (e.g. media center, cafeteria, court yard.)
- ✓ Suggested activities for the day
 - Provide food and/or refreshments.
 - Provide the student with a brief (two minute maximum) opportunity to give his/her perspective on what their dads or male-father figures involvement in their school means to them. Written/audio testimonials and video uploads can be submitted to the school leading up to and after the event. Provide dads with a similar opportunity.
 - Develop resource "stations" that fathers (or father figures) can visit to obtain information about the school or their child's education.
 - Take photos of dads and students that can be displayed during lunch and/or morning of the event.
- ✓ Other considerations
 - Organize parking and traffic flow.
 - Coordinate security and check-in procedures.
 - Pair students with a "Dad for a day" if he/she may not have a dad or male role model.

Suggested activities for continued participation

- Partner with local organizations to host an event that emphasizes interaction between dad and child (e.g. partner with a local grocery store to host a father/child cooking class).
- Encourage dads to sign-up for a parent/teacher conference or, participate in an event such as career day.