Beyond the Month: Family Engagement in Education

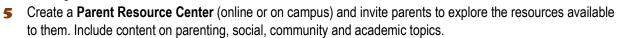


Engaging Families at Home and in the Community

1 Through **school-community partnerships**, connect with community-based programs/resources (e.g., health care and human services) that strengthen and support students' learning and promote well-being.



- 2 Encourage parents to have **family meals** together regularly. Research suggests that students who have regular family dinnertime experience increased academic performance.
- 3 Ask parents to help produce newsletters and other community outreach materials that can be worked on at home and may be perfect for parents who are not available during school hours to contribute.
- 4 Make regular homework assignments that require students to **discuss with their families** what they are learning in class.



- Offer an **online parent portal** so families can stay connected and updated on their child's progress in school including grades, attendance, test scores and schedule.
- 7 Launch a **community-mentoring program** for families which fosters positive relationships, social support and opportunities to develop new skills.

Engaging Families at School

- Create a welcoming school climate.
- Make positive parent phone calls throughout the year.
- Connect with parents/families in-person at the beginning of the year and stay in contact as much as possible. Use emails, texts, or apps to keep them up-to-date on upcoming class events and student achievements.
- Conduct a survey to obtain input from parents and students on current and potential school workshop topics in order to identify ways to provide support for social and emotional learning. Host family engagement nights for families and students presenting on topics identified.



- Find out about **parents' talents** and skills and then invite them to lead after-school activities such as school exercise programs e.g., cheerleading, karate, aerobics and other activities that show their skills and talents.
- **Share classroom expectations** and **student learning goals** openly with parents, and ask them to do the same.
- 7 Plan **theme nights** which offer cross-curricular subjects in **all grade levels**. Create workstations that families and students can do together.
- Identify and address common challenges that inhibit parent/family engagement such as scheduling conflicts, language barriers, etc.