

Family Engagement Self Assessment

1. Order the following family engagement activities according to your preference (1-6).

_____ Family workshops

_____ Regular conferences to discuss child's development and learning

_____ Family volunteer to read stories in the classroom

_____ Provide family with materials to engage children in learning at home

_____ Work with family as partners to plan field trips related to curriculum

_____ Work with other agencies to engage families in literacy

2. Which family involvement activities best reflects you or your programs? (check all that apply)

- A. Families are offered education through courses and workshops.
- B. Home visit and transitions events support families.
- C. Provide suggestions to families around how learning can be supported at home.

3. Check all that apply to your knowledge of the community?

- A. Aware of information for students and families on community health, cultural, recreational, social supports, and other programs or services.
- B. Aware of the community students, families, and schools. E.g know where a child might go to engage in activities involving the arts or elders.
- C. Aware of summer program options for students to enhance learning or talents.

4. Check all that apply to practices around family involvement and engagement:

- A. Families are active members of the organization.
- B. There is an advisory council or committee that families actively participate in and provide leadership to the program.
- C. There are systems in place to link families with other parent representatives.
- D. Families take an active role in committees that involve school, families, and community.

5. Check all that you currently do on a regular basis:

- A. Information is given to families on development typical for the age range being served.
- B. Calendars with activities for families and students to do a home are regularly sent home.
- C. Families are given information and activities to strengthen learning goals based on assessment data.

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6. Check all that you do:

- A. Conference with every family at least twice a year, or every 4 months.
- B. Language translation is provided for all families.
- C. Regularly scheduled notes, memos, phone calls, and newsletter are used to communicate with every family.

7. Check all that you do:

- A. Family members are used as volunteers on field trips and in the classroom.
- B. Parents are annually surveyed to identify their talents, time, and willingness to volunteer.
- C. A space dedicated to parents and family resources is maintained regularly.

8. Read the following statements and label true or false.

- 1. Students with families involved in their education earn better grades. ____
- 2. Students with families involved in their education have higher graduation rates and are more likely to go onto post secondary education. ____
- 3. Children with parents taking part in key decisions in their school such as learning at home, planning for the child future, and volunteering do best. ____
- 4. When families remain involved in children's transition and learning to middle school and high school children do better with transitions, maintain the quality of their work, develop realistic plans, and are less likely to drop out of school. ____
- 5. When families from diverse backgrounds and cultures join forces with educators children are more successful. ____

9. Which of the following benefits for children and families are documented in studies as a result of schools and community organizations teaming up to support families in gaining access to social services?

- 1. Better communication with schools and teachers
- 2. Improved literacy skills
- 3. Higher attendance at school meetings
- 4. Strong sense of responsibility for children's schooling
- 5. Greater confidence in a families ability to be a child's first teacher
- 6. Increased knowledge of child development.
- 7. All of the above

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10. Research has documented which of the following as benefits linked to teacher and family partnerships? Check all that apply:

1. Families understand goals of the teacher and school.
2. Families are more supportive to change.
3. Rate teachers higher
4. Teachers hold fewer stereotypes
5. More time for teaching and individualized attention.
6. All of the above
7. Number 1, 2, and 3.

11. Which of the following are considered to be mandated in the No Child Left Behind legislation which requires all public schools to provide students with a high quality education?

1. School-parent compact: Developed with and approved by families. The document must describe how the school and families will build partnerships to improve student achievement.
2. School and district must have a written parent involvement policy. Policy must describe how families will be involved in developing plans for school improvement and family engagement.
3. School and district report cards must be available to parents in their language and easy to understand.
4. If a school has not made adequate process parents can request that their child be transferred to a new school or request supplemental services.
5. The law defines parent's involvement as regular, two way and meaningful communication about student learning and other activities.
6. All of the above
7. None of the above

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Take a minute to visualize what a school might look like if it created a genuine culture of school-family partnership.

1. If someone was to visit this school, what would they notice about the climate? What evidence would they see, hear, and feel as they walked through the school? What might parents, children, and teachers say about the climate and culture of the school?
2. What evidence would be observed to document the program's focus on social and academic achievement for all students?
3. Describe the type and quality of the school's communication and information shared with families?
4. Describe the programs, practices, and policies for engaging families and the community in the school.