

National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools

25 Parent Involvement Strategies

1. At every conference with parents ask about their expectations for their child's education.
2. Visit families in their homes.
3. Create a lending library that offers games and learning materials to build skills at home.
4. Plan interactive homework that involves parents in their child's learning.
5. Make regular calls from teachers, not just when there are problems, about how their child is doing in school.
6. Provide information about program options, graduation requirements, test schedules, and postsecondary education options and how to plan for them.
7. Meet with students and parents at feeder schools or programs to introduce them to staff and explain your program and answer questions.
8. Promote parents' connections with each other, with teachers, other school staff and community groups.
9. Translate communications with parents into their home languages and provide interpreters at meetings.
10. Offer child care, meals, and transportation for major activities.
11. Ask parents about the best times for them to attend events. Ask what kind of events they would like to attend. Ask what they think would make the school better.
12. Support parent involvement in decision making by making your program or school a laboratory for democracy.
13. Ask the superintendent, board members, and other administrative staff to meet with parents and explain what they do. Work with parents to develop an agenda for such meetings so they are comfortable asking questions or raising concerns.
14. Give parents information about how your education system works. Make field trips to district offices and school board meetings.
15. Open the school to community meetings.

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