

# Engaging Families in Learning and Planning

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- ▶ **Research demonstrates and suggests that family involvement in education matters for student success.**
- ▶ **Family engagement improves -**
  - School readiness;
  - Student achievement;
  - Social skills;
  - School attendance;
  - Academic performance and;
  - Attitudes about school.
- ▶ **A seamless system of strategies will:**
  - Results in a shared responsibility in supporting family engagement;
  - Provides guidance that reflects each person's role and responsibility in promoting productive home-school communication
  - Provides strategies so that parents and educators enter into conversations/conferences with shared expectations and an increased ability to work together to improve children's educational outcomes.
- ▶ Family engagement does not happen in a vacuum;
- ▶ It takes the committed actions of both families and providers/teachers working together;
- ▶ Through shared responsibility programs and teachers reach out to and engage families in meaningful ways;
- ▶ Through shared responsibility families do their part to actively support their children's learning and developing; Home-School communication predicts positive outcomes for children and schools;
- ▶ Parent-teacher conferences is an opportunity for parents to learn from teachers and teachers to learn from parents;
- ▶ Teacher efforts to better understand the aspirations and perceptions of families can help them feel respected and build trust.
- ▶ **Tips for Productive and Effective Engagement**
  - **For Parents**
    - YOU are the child's first and most important teacher;
    - YOU and your child's school have something in common – both want the child to learn and do well;

- YOU have valuable information about your child's
  - Talents,
  - Interests,
  - Learning styles,
  - Non-school learning opportunities, and
  - Strengths and needs
  - YOU may learn something new about how your child learns;
  - Family – Teacher conferences are a great way to start talking.
- ***For Teachers – Before The Conference***
  - **Send invitations**
  - **Provide information about time, purpose and alternative scheduling options**
  - **Review the child's progress**
  - **Prepare thoughts and material**
  - **Send reminders**
  - **Create a welcoming environment**
- ***For Teachers – During The Conference***
  - **Discuss progress and growth**
  - **Use examples**
  - **Ask questions and listen actively**
  - **Share ideas for supporting learning**
  - **Seek solutions collaboratively**
  - **Make a “Next Steps” plan**
  - **Establish lines of communication**
- ***For Teachers – After The Conference***
  - **Follow up with families**
  - **Communicate regularly**
  - **Connect in-class activities**

*For more information on this training or other  
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