

Parent Involvement

It may be one of the least controversial statements in American education: Parent involvement can make a difference in a child's education. The conflict can come, though, on how to define that involvement. Do all the PTA meetings, take-home flyers and Back to School nights actually generate increases in student achievement? The Center for Public Education examined the research and found that creating a partnership between parents and schools focused on academics truly does have significant impact on student achievement.

The six types of parent involvement:

1. **Parenting**, in which schools help families with their parenting skills by providing information on children's developmental stages and offering advice on learning-friendly home environments;
2. **Communicating**, or working to educate families about their child's progress and school services and providing opportunities for parents to communicate with the school;
3. **Volunteering**, which ranges from offering opportunities for parents to visit their child's school to finding ways to recruit and train them to work in the school or classroom;
4. **Learning at home**, in which schools and educators share ideas to promote at-home learning through high expectations and strategies so parents can monitor and help with homework.
5. **Decision-making**, in which schools include families as partners in school organizations, advisory panels, and similar committees.
6. **Community collaboration**, a two-way outreach strategy in which community or business groups are involved in education and schools encourage family participation in the community.