

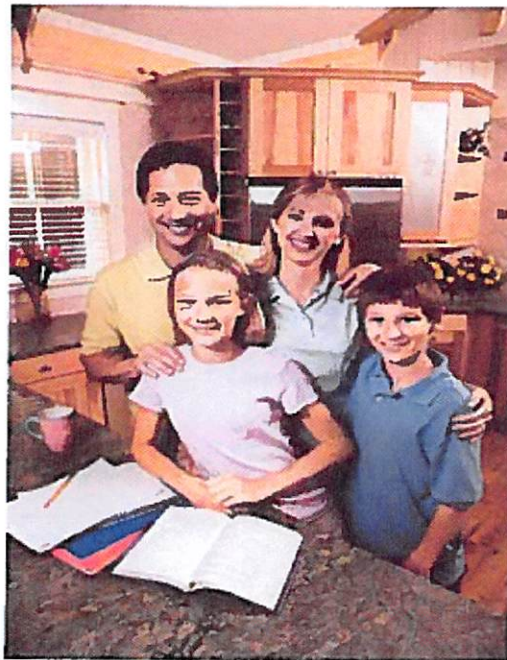
**Family  
Engagement/Community  
Involvement**



## Family Engagement/ and Community Involvement

**One of the biggest benefits of a coordinated approach to school health can be a closer working relationship between parents, businesses, local health officials, and other community groups.**

**Schools can take the opportunity to form powerful coalitions to address the health needs of students. School health councils, coalitions, and broadly based constituencies for school health can assist to build support for school health program efforts. Schools should actively engage community resources and parental involvement services to respond effectively to the health-related needs of students.**



## Examples of involving parents and the community in coordinated school health:

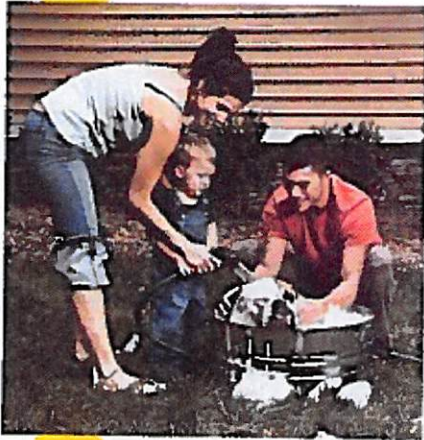
- Encourage parents to participate in coordinated school health planning and oversight committees
- Ask community members with special skills to teach certain health units (i.e. dieticians focusing on food choices).
- Open school facilities during non-school hours for physical activity, fitness sessions, as well as family health seminars and social and recreational functions. A Toolkit for Shared Used Agreements can be found at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ohs/home>
- Schedule health fairs regularly and invite the public to participate.
- Invite parents and community members to be on the school health council
- Update parents on successes relating to school health through monthly newsletter
- Encourage parents and community members to participate in the development of the local school wellness policy and ensure implementation
- Appoint parents to serve on crisis response planning committee
- Sponsor a family fitness night
- Work with local media to inform the community about health problems facing Mississippi children, as well as the need for healthy school environments
- Increase PTO/PTA Membership
- Provide resources that help families on matters that are related to parenting skills, child development, and family relationships.
- Train parents to communicate with their child about relationships, safety, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, sexuality, violence and diet.
- More ideas and resources on the following page.



*"The education of young people affects everything from the economy to national security. The key is to get involved, whether or not you have children."*

## Contacts, Resources, and Data – Family and Community Involvement

On the Office of Healthy Schools website, you can find useful resources for reaching family and community members with programming for health and wellness. Go to <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/healthy-schools/family-and-community-services> and click on resources.



### Parents for Public Schools:

Parents for Public Schools is a national organization of community-based chapters working in public schools through broad-based enrollment. The organization's proactive involvement helps public schools attract all families in a community by making sure all schools effectively serve all children. For more information please visit: [www.parents4publicschools.com](http://www.parents4publicschools.com).

### Mississippi PTA

The mission of the Mississippi Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children. The Mississippi PTA also assists parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children and to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools.

For more information please visit [www.mississippipta.org](http://www.mississippipta.org).

### Youth Risk Behavior Survey - 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data

<http://www.msdc.state.ms>—Click on Data and Statistics

