

# 7 Ways Family Engagement Boosts Academic Outcomes



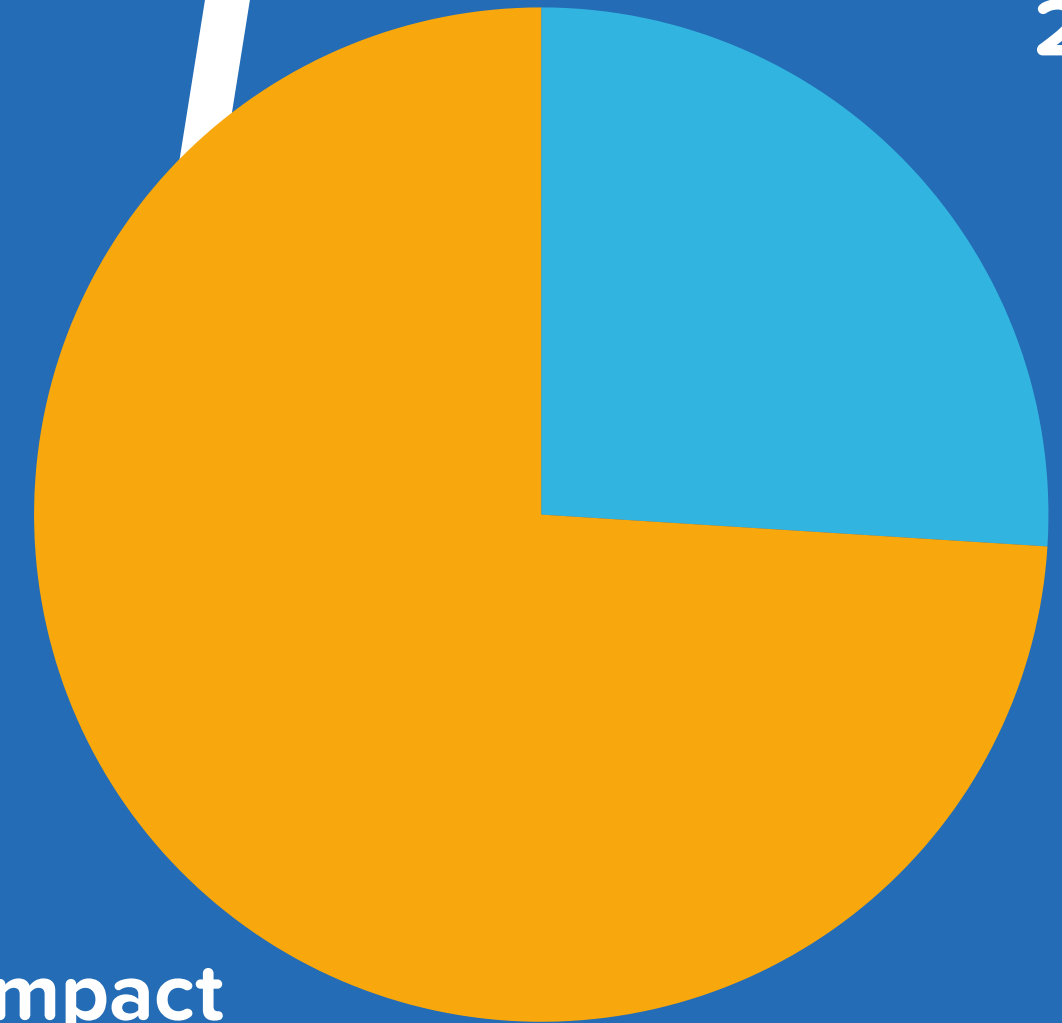
**What does research say about  
family engagement and  
district goals?**

# DID YOU KNOW?

**74% of student academic achievement is directly attributable to what's happening outside the school walls?**

Home Impact  
74%

School Impact  
26%



# 1 Student Success

**Parent Engagement improves attainment more than any other single factor.**

*Lucas, Bill. 2010*





**FACT:** When you ask your teen about things they like doing, you build their self-awareness. This helps your teen work towards a future that's meaningful to them.

**TIP:** Notice things your teen likes doing. What captures their attention? Ask about it. For example, "What do you enjoy most about drawing? Basketball? Acting?"

**GROWTH:** Mention similarities in things your child likes doing. For example, "I notice you seem to like activities that involve working with your hands."



**FACT:** A great way to help your teen thrive in high school is by letting them know you think it's an important and valuable experience. Asking about school helps communicate this.

**TIP:** Today, ask your teen about things they're looking forward to this year. Are there things they're hoping to learn more about? Anything they want to try?

**GROWTH:** Notice ways your teen is working hard in school and mention them. For example, "I notice you are really staying on top of your assignments."



**FACT:** Your participation matters! When you're part of your child's school community, it grows stronger. Knowing where to find information helps you take part.

**TIP:** Visit the school's website. Can you find information like the school calendar? Make it a daily habit to check for any emails or texts from the school too.

**GROWTH:** Need more school info? It's always okay to reach out and ask. Try saving the number for the front office in your phone so you can easily call too.

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# Attendance

**Students are more likely to attend school regularly when their families give the school high ratings on family engagement.**

*Miller, E. & Gaumer Erickson, A. S., 2023*







**FACT:** You are the expert on your child. Sharing insights with the teacher helps them welcome your child to school and meet your child's needs.

**TIP:** Let the teacher know about things your child loves to do. You might share about activities they love and things that make them happy and excited.

**GROWTH:** Now share about your child's emotions. Are there ways the teacher can tell if your child's feeling nervous? Things that help your child feel calm?



**FACT:** Lots of learning happens every day in your child's classroom. Attendance matters! Routines make it easier for kids to show up on time and ready to learn.

**TIP:** Talk together about a morning routine. Ask, "What do you need to do to get ready?" Make a list and post it where your child can check it each morning.

**GROWTH:** Keep up the great attendance. If you're having trouble getting your child to school let the teacher know. There might be ways the school can help.



**FACT:** When teens feel a sense of belonging in high school it boosts their motivation and effort. Joining school clubs and activities helps build this connection.

**TIP:** Ask your teen if there are clubs or activities, they might be interested in. If they aren't sure try, "Is there a friend or teacher you could ask?"

**GROWTH:** Attending school events like games and concerts can help your teen discover activities they might want to join. Being in the audience can also boost belonging.

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# Academic Achievement

**Academic Achievement, school engagement, and motivation are all stronger when parents are involved in their children's education.**

*American Psychological Association Meta-Study, 2019*







**FACT:** Part of being a strong learner is knowing when and how to ask the teacher for help. Practicing at home helps give kids the confidence to ask for support!

**TIP:** After school ask: "Is there anything in school that's been really hard to learn or do?" Then ask, "Have you tried asking the teacher for help? What are some ways you could ask?"

**GROWTH:** Keep practicing ways to ask the teacher for help. Take turns coming up with ways your child might ask. For example, "I tried X but I'm still stuck. Can you please help me?"



**FACT:** At this age, math can be complex. You don't need to know the answers to help. Asking questions about their math work helps them think through solutions and solve problems.

**TIP:** If your child is struggling with a math problem, ask: "What are the steps for figuring this out? What do you do first? Then what?" Can they show you?

**GROWTH:** Keep building math strategies. If a problem is still too hard, suggest: "How about typing up your question and emailing it to your teacher?"



**FACT:** You have an amazing influence on your child. When they hear you saying positive things about school, they become even more motivated to learn.

**TIP:** As you're spending time with your child, mention ways that school helped you reach 1 of your goals. Did it help you get a job? Make friends? Learn a trade?

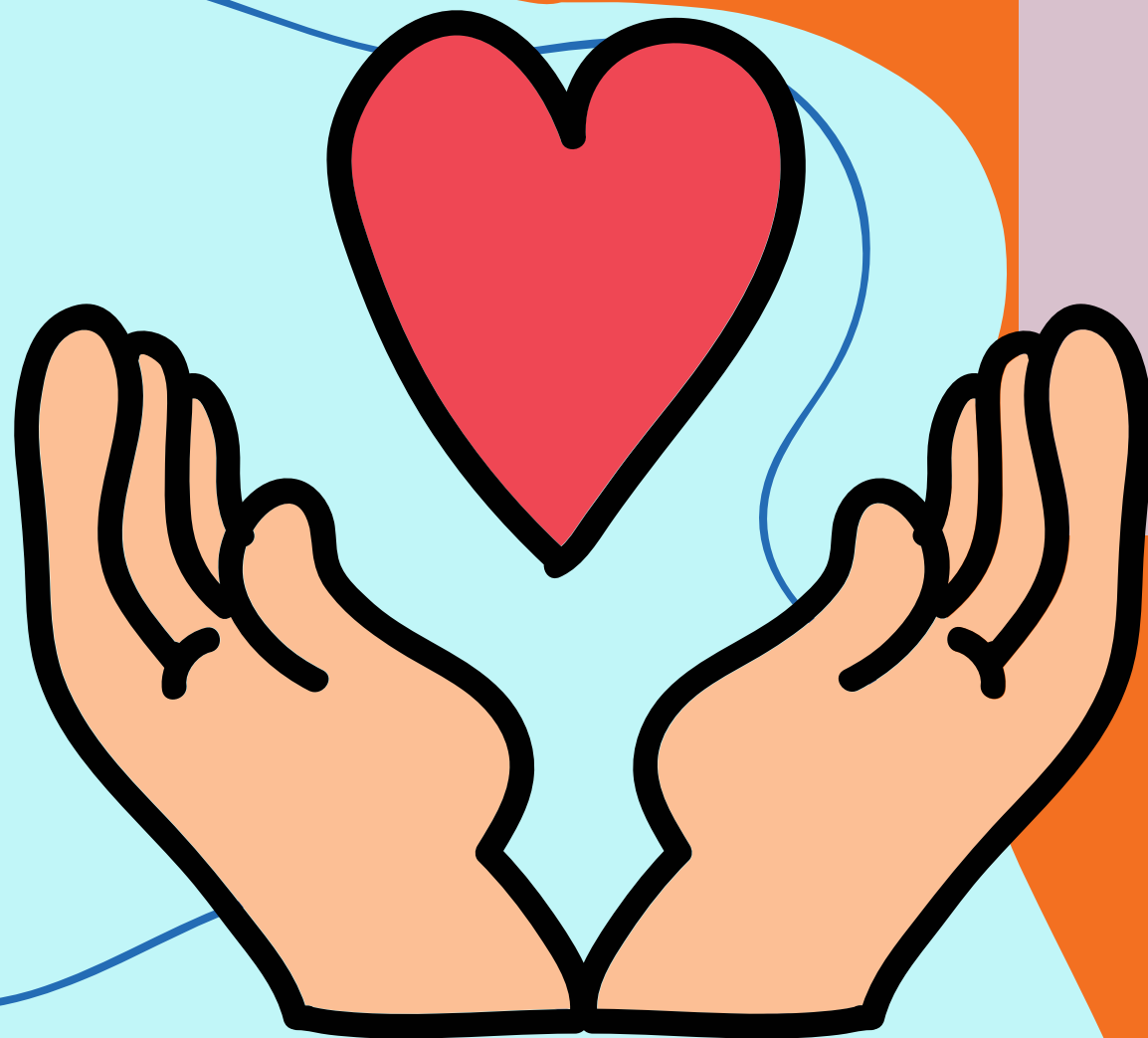
**GROWTH:** Mention ways school helps your child reach their goals. For example, "The math you're learning now is going to help you be a great [builder, nurse...]"



# Student Wellbeing

**Students demonstrate more positive attitudes and behavior, as well as a greater sense of self-efficacy and self-esteem, with high-quality family engagement.**

*US Dept of Ed., Family Engagement Learning Series Briefs*





**FACT:** Deep breathing is a great tool for thriving in middle school. It calms the body and brain so kids can think, solve problems, and persist.

**TIP:** Before your middle schooler takes on a task, encourage them to take a few deep breaths. Together, breathe in for 3 and then out for 5. Ask, "Do you feel ready to begin?"

**GROWTH:** If your child feels frustrated or stuck as they work, encourage them to take a breath break. You can try a breath break when you feel frustrated or stressed too.



**FACT:** A growth mindset helps kids thrive in all they do! It's believing learning is possible with time and effort. Noticing effort helps build this mindset.

**TIP:** When you notice your child putting in effort, call it out. Have they been working hard at sports? Music? Taking time to do a chore well? Let them know!

**GROWTH:** Keep noticing hard work! When your child mentions someone they admire, like an athlete, talk about effort. Call out what it took them to become great.



**FACT:** High school is a time for teens to learn about who they are and who they want to be. Inviting teens to talk about their proud moments supports this work.

**TIP:** Tonight, check in and chat together. Ask, "What's something you did recently that made you feel proud?" Share a reason you feel proud of them too.

**GROWTH:** Ask, "If you were applying for a job, what would you want them to know about you? What are some accomplishments and skills you feel really proud of?"

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# Graduation

**Students are more likely to graduate on time when districts have a strong family engagement program in place.**

*Rumberger, R. W., 2021*

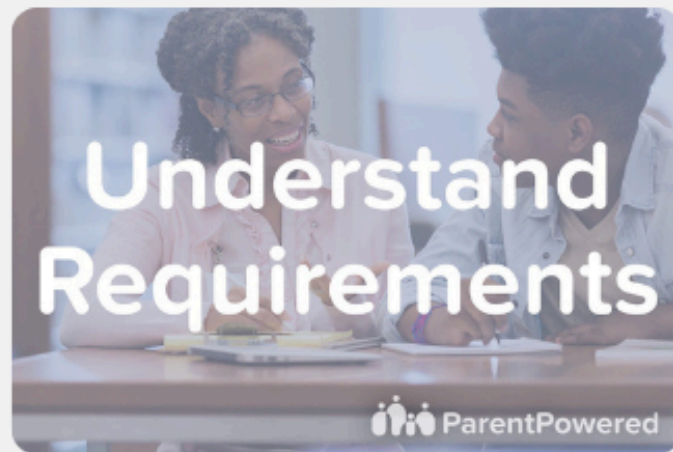




**FACT:** Sometimes teens can feel mixed emotions about school. Having things in the day to look forward to can help them stay motivated and engaged.

**TIP:** Encourage your teen to get involved at school. Chat together about what's available-clubs, sports, theater? Invite them to choose at least one to try.

**GROWTH:** If negative feelings about school are causing your teen to be absent, thank them for letting you know and reach out. School counselors, teachers, or the nurse can be a great place to start.



**FACT:** High schoolers must take certain classes to graduate. There may be added requirements if they plan to attend college. Knowing requirements is key.

**TIP:** Ask your high schooler about their requirements. What classes do they need to take next year? How many credits do they need to graduate? Attend college?

**GROWTH:** Now check in to make sure your teen knows who to go to if they have questions about requirements. If they're unsure, call the office to ask.



**FACT:** Knowing about different career paths helps your teen consider lots of career possibilities. Start by exploring careers connecting to things your teen likes doing.

**TIP:** Ask your teen, "What are things you can imagine doing every day and enjoying? Building things? Writing? Taking care of others? What else?"

**GROWTH:** When your teen is interested in a career, encourage them to research it. What's needed to have that career? An internship? Training program? College?



# Literacy

**Giving families a literacy-rich parenting curriculum via text message can increase student growth by 2-3 months over a school year.**

*York & Loeb, 2014*





**FACT:** Kids build vocabulary by seeing real world examples of the words they are learning. A good vocabulary will help your child grow in every subject.

**TIP:** In the morning, pick a word that describes your child's shirt, like "colorful." For the rest of the day, hunt for colorful things. Who can find the most?

**GROWTH:** Keep looking for examples of words in the world! Before bed, ask your child to name some "shiny" things. What about "soft" or "loud" things?



**FACT:** As kids become stronger readers, they start sounding out words with two syllables, like COF-FEE and YO-GURT. This skill allows them to read more books!

**TIP:** At the store, ask your child to help you find things by reading the words on the aisle signs and labels. Can they read the signs for CAR-ROTS and COF-FEE?

**GROWTH:** Keep reading 2-syllable words. Can your child sound out some 2-syllable words on your receipt? Point to a few for them to try, like PA-PER and TOW-EL.



**FACT:** Asking your child WHO, WHAT, WHY, and WHERE questions as you read together helps them understand books. It also helps them become a better writer!

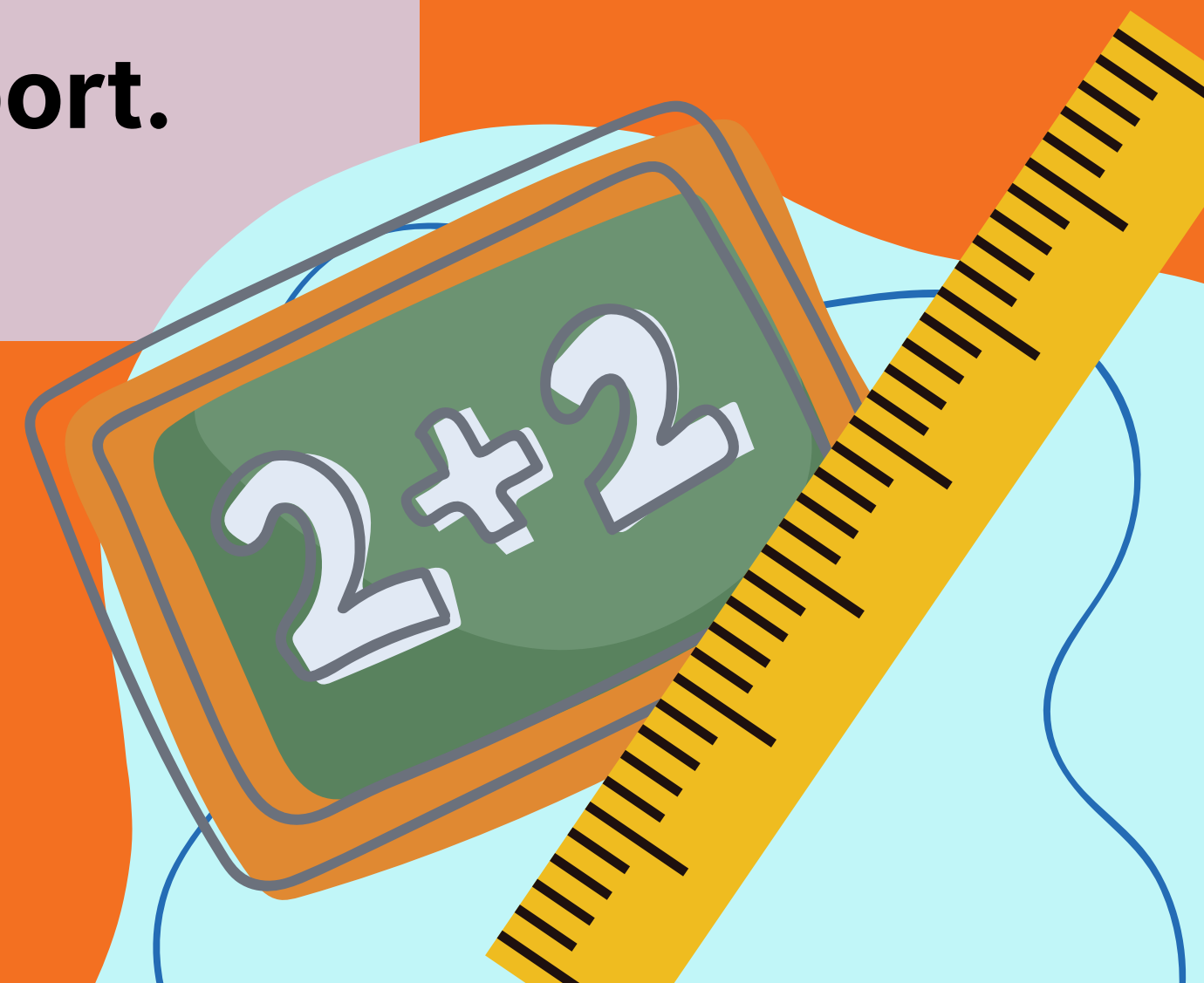
**TIP:** As you read a story, ask questions. Start with a character. Try, "WHO is this? WHAT are they doing? WHY are they doing it? WHAT will happen next?"

**GROWTH:** Now after a story, ask a HOW question to get your child really thinking! Say, "HOW would this story be different if it were in outer space?"

# 7 Math

**Students are more likely to score at or above proficient on standardized tests when schools encourage at-home math learning support.**

*Sheldon & Epstein, 2005*







**FACT:** You don't need to know the answers to help your child with math. Just asking them questions about their math work helps them thrive.

**TIP:** As you're preparing a meal, ask: "What are you learning in math?" Then follow up with, "Can you show me?" or "Can you teach me how to do it?"

**GROWTH:** Keep asking about math! When your child shows you completed math work, point to an answer and ask, "How did you figure that out?" Can they explain it?



**FACT:** Mistakes are part of learning math. They actually make minds grow. When kids see mistakes as opportunities to grow, hard math moments get easier.

**TIP:** The next time your child makes a math error, pause to remind them math mistakes help their mind grow. Then, sit with them as they try again.

**GROWTH:** Keep treating math mistakes as learning moments. Now work together to figure out your child's mistake. Try, "Tell me what you did first, then..."



**FACT:** When kids build with blocks and everyday objects, they build math skills. Building helps kids learn all about shapes, patterns, and measurement.

**TIP:** Give a fun building challenge before you clean up. Can your child build a bridge using things they find around the room? Can they build a ramp?

**GROWTH:** Keep building and learning! Now ask your child to tell you all about the things they make. Ask, "What did you build? How did you build it?"

# Best Practices

- Follow the line of trust
- Center your families
- Aim for clear, strengths-based communication with a WHAT, WHY and HOW
- Scaffold Family Engagement
- Make sure families are “at the table”
- Transparency is KEY as is follow through

# Scan & Share!

FOR STAFF

## Scaffolding Family Engagement

Scaffolding! It's a technique we use all the time with students. It helps to build new skills on top of known skills. Scaffolding is proven to enhance information retention, boost engagement and self-agency. Scaffolding is also a critical technique for strong family engagement. After all, when we effectively support parents and caregivers, we empower them. To make sure you're scaffolding your family engagement efforts it helps to ask yourself these questions:



What is the thing I am **ACTUALLY ASKING** this family to do? What's involved? Really unpack it!

- What are all the steps involved?
- What are all the materials involved?
- What are all the logistics?
- What are all the required competencies?



Is the "ask" **ACTUALLY DOABLE?** Or is more support necessary?

- Will they know about it in the first place- will they receive the ask? Is it in their home language? At an accessible reading level? Free of jargon?
- Do families have the background knowledge to understand and act upon the thing(s) I'm asking them to do?
- Is the "ask" culturally responsive and strength based?
- Do they have the required materials or a way to get them?

person they can ask for help?

[www.parentpowered.com](http://www.parentpowered.com) | [info@parentpowered.com](mailto:info@parentpowered.com)



### 7 Ways Family Engagement Boosts Academic Outcomes

Research shows that 74% of student academic performance is based on what's happening outside the school walls. Which is why family engagement is key to improving academic outcomes for students.

See what the research says about family engagement and your district goals

- 1 Student Success**  
Parent engagement improves attainment more than any other single factor.  
Lucas, 2010
- 2 Attendance**  
Students are more likely to attend school regularly when their families give the school high ratings on family engagement.  
Miller, E. & Gaurer Erickson, A. S., 2023
- 3 Academic Achievement**  
Academic achievement, school engagement, and



FOR FAMILIES



Scan & Share!

English & Spanish

**TIP 3 MAKE IT A ROUTINE**  
As children get older they're in the habit of becoming a routine, and hard stuff if they don't.

**TIP 2 BE AVAILABLE**  
So, how do you go about doing everyday stuff with them. This lays out some ideas.

**TIP 1 BE AN ACTIVE LISTENER**  
What is active listening? It's listening not just to what you're not thinking about, but also working to understand what they're saying.

**BUILDING STRONG COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR ADOLESCENT**  
The adolescent years (ages 10-18) are an amazing time for growth and development. You may have noticed your child developing new interests, taking new risks, or becoming more social. You may have also experienced that your child is less likely to share about their ups and downs with you.

This is totally normal. As children grow older, they are actually wired to focus more on independence and friends. And they're wired to want to do this work a bit more on their own.

Knowing that a trusted adult is there for them is CRITICAL to this development.

So, as that trusted adult, how do you...  
• stay in the loop in a way that honors your child's independence?  
• encourage them to share with you?  
• set the stage for them to keep communicating?

**YOU CAN BE THERE TO...**

- listen
- offer comfort and support
- talk through decisions
- help create boundaries
- be a home base

**THESE 3 TIPS WILL HELP.**

# QUESTIONS?



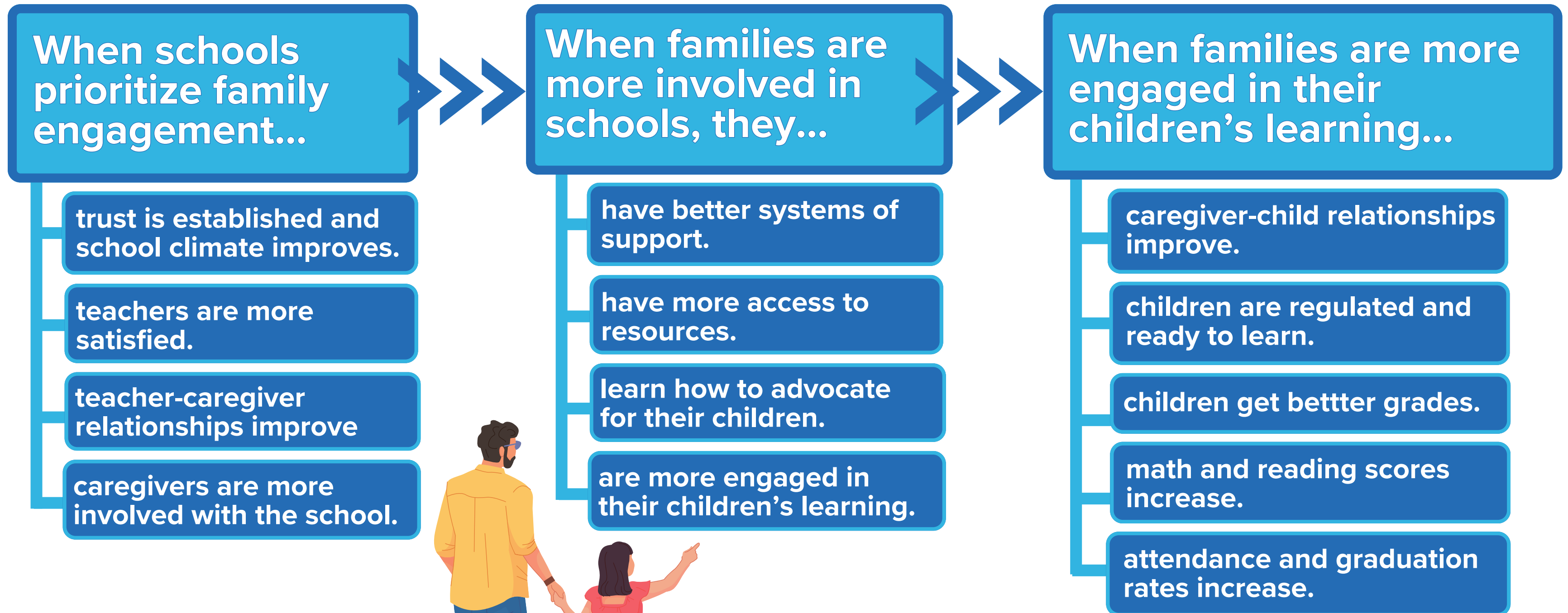
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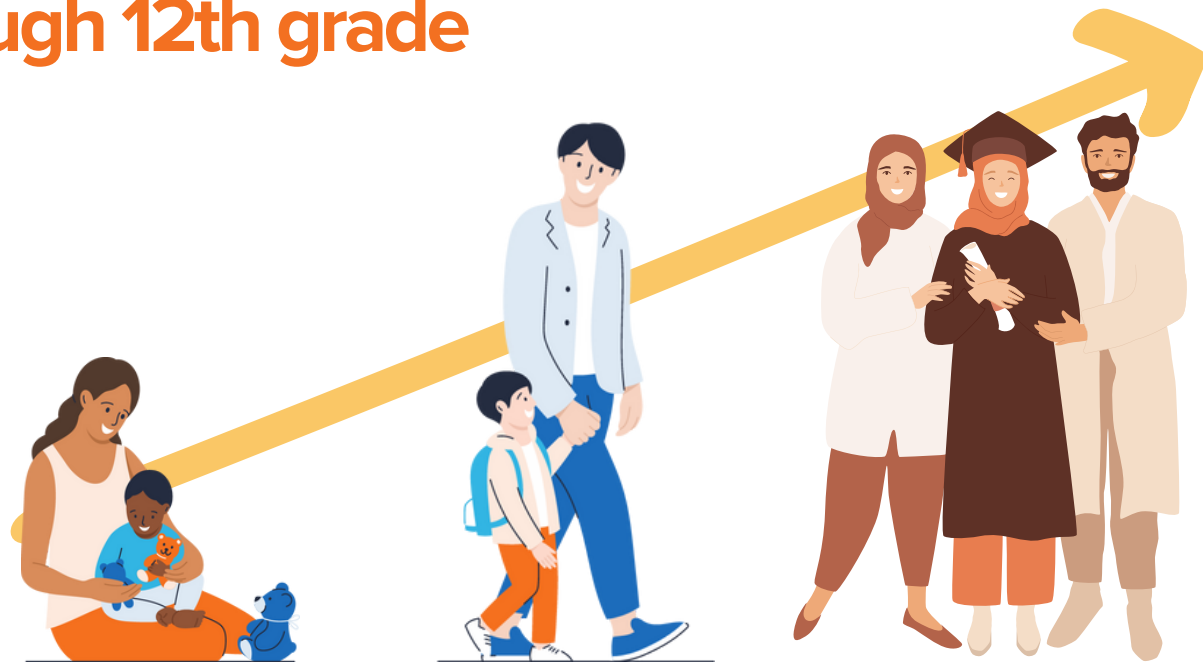
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# And that **family engagement** is directly linked to student success?



# ParentPowered is an evidence-based family engagement curriculum

For families and caregivers of students from **birth through 12th grade**

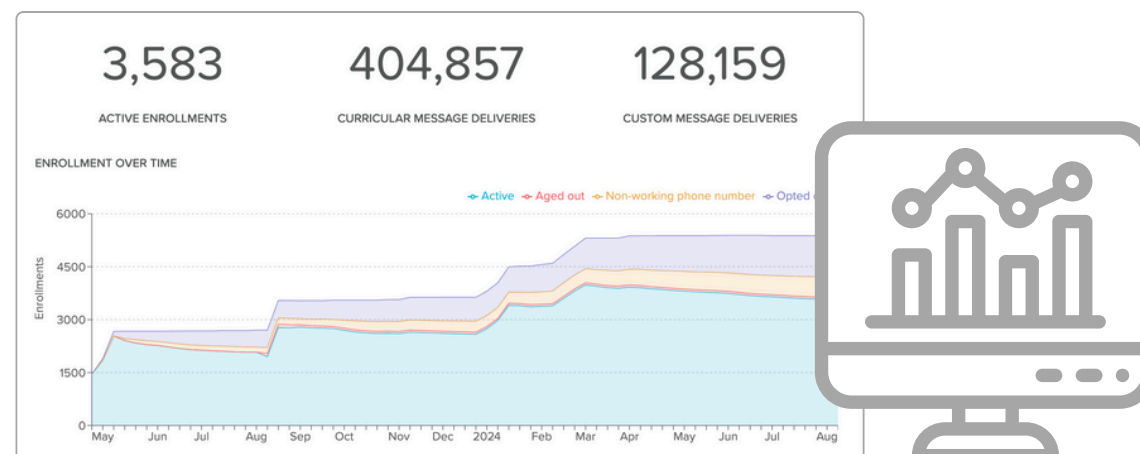


**Whole child curriculum** covering topics such as:

	<b>language</b>		<b>college &amp; career readiness</b>
	<b>literacy</b>		<b>executive function skills</b>
	<b>math</b>		<b>well being &amp; life skills</b>
	<b>science</b>		<b>home-school partnership</b>

Skills and strategies are **leveled for the child's age and stage of development**

**Culturally responsive, inclusive** programming



Comprehensive **data, insights, and reporting** to measure impact