

Parents as Partners in Schooling

Welcome to *Parents as Partners in Schooling*. Best practices suggest that when communities, schools, and families work together, the results are stronger communities that support the success of young people. The challenges that schools face today in fostering true parental engagement are the result of a multitude of complex issues, some of which we will examine in this course.

By the end of this course, you will have completed an in-depth analysis of ways schools are successfully meeting the parent-school connection challenge. In addition, you will explore and adapt strategies to create that connection in ways that meet the specific needs of your school and community.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

Module 1

- Explain the importance and assess the challenges of maintaining open lines of communication with parents.
- Establish methods and strategies to keep lines of communication open with parents of diverse backgrounds.

Module 2

- Identify ways to share the same values of caring for students with parents.
- Design procedures for supporting and encouraging parents throughout the year.

Module 3

- Identify ways a school can support parents in reinforcing and extending learning at home.
- Create lesson materials that allow parents to reinforce or extend learning at home.

Module 4

- Assess the benefits to the teacher, the parent, and the student of recruiting parents as school volunteers.
- Create methods for involving parents in the school as volunteers.

Module 5

- Assess the benefits to the school and the community of making all community members into school stakeholders.
- Create opportunities for community support of and participation in school events.

Module 6

- Analyze the benefits and challenges of involving the larger community in school-level decision making.
- Create mechanisms for including all stakeholders in school-level decision making.

Course Syllabus

Module 1	Establishing Effective Communication with Parents Module Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Establishing Effective Communication with Parents• Video: How to Involve All Parents in Your Diverse Community• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Building Partnerships with Immigrant Parents• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Involvement or Engagement?• Knowledge Check• Application: Make a Communication Plan• Module Review• Post-Module Reflection
Module 2	Finding Common Ground Module Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Finding Common Ground• Multimedia: Whole Child Education• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—A Partnership for School Readiness• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—The Overpressured Student• Knowledge Check• Application: Building Common Ground• Module Review• Post-Module Reflection

Module 3	Supporting Learning at Home Module Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video: Opportunities for Parental Involvement• Reading: Supporting Learning at Home• Video: How to Involve All Parents in Your Diverse Community• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Family Partnerships That Count• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Making the Most of School-Family Compacts• Knowledge Check• Application: Supporting Families Through Homework• Module Review• Post-Module Reflection
Module 4	Involving Parents as Volunteers in the School Module Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Involving Parents as Volunteers in the School• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Recruiting Parents and the Community• Video: Opportunities for Parental Involvement, Part 2• Knowledge Check• Application: Designing a Parent Volunteer Plan• Module Review• Post-Module Reflection

Module 5	Involving the Community as Support for the School Module Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Involving the Community as Support for the School• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—A Habitat for 21st Century Learning• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Service for Learning• Knowledge Check• Application: Assess Opportunities for Community Engagement• Module Review• Post-Module Reflection
Module 6	Involving Parents and the Community in School Decision Making Module Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Involving Parents and the Community in School Decision Making• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—Welcome to the Great Conversation• Reading: <i>Educational Leadership</i>—The Rewards of Parent Participation• Knowledge Check• Application: Community Involvement Action Plan• Module Review• Post-Module Reflection

Resources

Texts

- Allen, J. (2008). Family partnerships that count. *Educational Leadership*, 66(1), 22–27.
- Chandler, M. A. (2007, February 20). Black parents seek to raise ambitions. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/19/AR2007021900952.html>
- Clemens-Brower, T. J. (1997). Recruiting parents and the community. *Educational Leadership*, 54(5), 58–60.
- Comer, J. P. (2005). The rewards of parent participation. *Educational Leadership*, 62(6), 38–42.
- Ferlazzo, L. (2011). Involvement or engagement? *Educational Leadership* 68(8), 10–14.
- Finn, J. D. (1998). Parental engagement that makes a difference. *Educational Leadership*, 55(8), 20–24.
- Freeman, G. D., & King, J. L. (2003). A partnership for school readiness. *Educational Leadership*, 60(7), 76–79.
- Helm, J. H., Turckes, S., & Hinton, K. (2010). A habitat for 21st century learning. *Educational Leadership*, 67(7), 66–69.
- Henderson, A. T., Carson, J., Avallone, P., & Whipple, M. (2011). Making the most of school-family compacts. *Educational Leadership*, 68(8), 48–53.
- Henderson, A. T., & Mapp, K. L. (2002). *A new wave of evidence: The impact of school, family, and community connections on student achievement*. Retrieved from the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory website: <http://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf>
- Hutchins, D. J., Maushard, M., Greenfeld, M. D., and Thomas, B. G. (Eds) (2010). *Promising partnership practices 2010*. Baltimore: National Network of Partnership Schools, Johns Hopkins University.
- Lynn, L. (1997). Teaching teachers to work with families. *Harvard Education Letter*, 13(5). Retrieved from <http://www.hepg.org/hel/article/460>
- Price, H. B. (2008). *Mobilizing the community to help students succeed*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

PTA Family-School Partnerships. (2009). *PTA national standards for family-school partnerships: An implementation guide*. Retrieved from http://www.pta.org/National_Standards_Implementation_Guide_2009.pdf

Sobel, A., & Kugler, E. G. (2007). Building partnerships with immigrant parents. *Educational Leadership*, 64(6), 62–66.

Vollmer, J. (2011). Welcome to the great conversation. *Educational Leadership*, 68(8), 69–73.

Wade, R. (2011). Service for learning. *Educational Leadership*, 68(8), 28–31.

Weissbourd, R. (2011). The overpressured student. *Educational Leadership*, 68(8), 22–27.

Videos

ASCD. (2005). *The how to collection: Opportunities for parent involvement* [DVD]. Alexandria, VA: Author.

ASCD. (2007). *How to involve all parents in your diverse community* [DVD]. Alexandria, VA: Author.