

A PEATC

Do You Know....



Fact Sheet for Virginia's Professionals Why Parent-Teacher Engagement is Critical to Student Success

Parents as Partners Means Active and Engaged Students

Studies have shown that family engagement with schools contributes to a range of positive student outcomes, including education and health outcomes. When parents are involved, children have more motivation, fewer behavioral issues, higher levels of self-confidence and self-esteem, and better social skills. They have more positive attitudes toward learning, better attendance rates, and increased graduation rates.

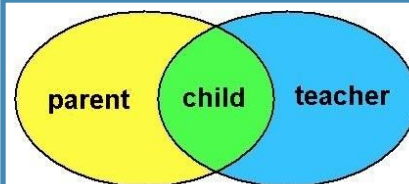
National Standards for Family School Partnerships

The National Parent Teacher Association (NPTA) has developed 6 standards for creating successful family-school partnerships. The Standards and their *Implementation Guide* can be found here: <https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/National-Standards-for-Family-School-Partnerships>. These standards apply to partnerships with all families, including those who have children with disabilities.

1. **Welcoming all families into the school community.** Families are active participants, feel welcome, valued and connected to each other, school staff and to what students are learning and doing in class
2. **Communicating Effectively.** Families and schools engage in regular two-way meaningful communication about student learning.
3. **Supporting Student Success.** Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support student learning and healthy development at home and at school and have ongoing opportunities to strengthen skills.
4. **Speaking up for every child.** Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children to ensure fair treatment and access to learning opportunities.
5. **Sharing Power.** Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions and work together to inform, influence, and create policies, practices and programs.
6. **Collaborating with Community.** Family and school staff work with members of the community to connect students, families and staff to learning opportunities, community services, and civic activities.

"The evidence that parent involvement can make a significant difference in student achievement is beyond question,"

*John H. Wherry, Ed.D., President,
Parent Institute®*



Also see PEATC Fact Sheets on:

*Working with Families of Children
with Disabilities*

*Parent-School Partnerships
Community Engagement & Schools*

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Fact Sheet for Virginia's Professional

When schools welcome and engage families early, **long term trusting partnerships** are developed which benefit the entire school community. School staff should be sure that **parents feel comfortable** reaching out to ask questions. They should be sure there are plenty of **opportunities for parents to volunteer** in school activities, both inside and outside of the classroom. **Communication should be as frequent** as possible. Emails, texts or apps can help keep parents up to date. **Other methods of communication** should be put in place for parents who are not technology users or don't have access to technology. Meetings should be scheduled for a time when parents are able to attend, and parents should be made as comfortable as possible in the school setting.

Some Helpful Resources on Parent-Teacher Engagement

There are many resources on family engagement. These are just a few.

Engaging and Communicating with Parents: A Teacher Guide (Education Week Teacher) https://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/teaching_ahead/engaging-and-communicating-with-parents-a-teacher-guide/

Family Engagement Toolkit (Teaching Tolerance) www.tolerance.org

Five Keys to Successful Parent-Teacher Communication (Scholastic) <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/five-keys-successful-parent-teacher-communication/>

How Parent Involvement Leads to Student Success (Waterford.org) <https://www.waterford.org/education/how-parent-involvement-leads-to-student-success/>

Parent Engagement in Schools (American Psychological Association) <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/programs/safe-supportive/parental-engagement/>

Tech-Enhanced Parent Engagement (Edutopia). <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/tech-enhanced-parent-engagement-nicholas-provenzano>

The Beginners' Guide to Connecting Home and School (Edutopia). <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/beginners-guide-connecting-home-school-tabitha-dellangelo>

8 Tips for Working with Parents of Special Needs Children

Excerpted: #RGS Teachers' Lounge
<https://blog.reallygoodstuff.com/8-tips-for-teachers-for-working-with-parents-of-special-needs-children/>

1. Have **open and ongoing communication** with the family before a situation arises.
2. **Start with a compliment** about the child.
3. **Don't tell a parent** to teach their child to behave.
4. Help ensure parents have **access to information and resources** about their child's disability.
5. **Don't mention medication** – let the family introduce meds to the conversation or talk to a specialist in the school.
6. Never mention new **labels** or **try to diagnose the child**.
7. **Never make jokes** about a child. Always use appropriate language.
8. Keep the child around **capable and trained individuals**.

PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.

For more information about us, please contact:

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