

Parent Engagement =

School Success

When parents are actively engaged in their child's education, students benefit in many ways: **Higher** grades and test scores; **Better** attitudes and behavior; **Better** school attendance; **More** completed homework assignments; **Greater** likelihood of graduating from high school; **Better** chance of enrolling in postsecondary education.



Your presence and engagement in your child's education are critical factors to student achievement and overall school success.

How You Can Become Actively Engaged in Your Child's Learning, Both at Home and at School:

- Show an interest in your child's education; ask your child each day to tell you something he or she learned.
- Set high expectations for achievement; strive for excellence, not perfection.
- Let your child know you believe in his or her ability to succeed in school; remember to praise effort as well as results.
- Reinforce good study habits; establish a daily routine and a safe, quiet place at home where your child can study with minimal distraction.
- Volunteer and participate in school events and take advantage of opportunities to show your child that you care and are committed to his or her learning and school success.

Support Your Child's School by:

- Speaking positively about your child's teachers and counselors.
- Talking to your child about why education is important to his or her future.
- Making sure your child gets to school well-rested, well-fed, and on time.
- Attending Back-to-School Nights and parent-teacher conferences.
- Promptly answering notes and calls from your child's teacher.

Encourage Reading and Writing by:

- Keeping age-appropriate books, magazines, and newspapers in your home.
- Taking your child to the library to get his or her own library card and check out books.
- Reading aloud with your child and discussing the pictures and story line.
- Encouraging your child to write notes to grandparents and other relatives.
- Encouraging your child to keep a journal and record his or her thoughts.

The impact of parent engagement on school success

- Parental engagement is between two and 10 times as big a factor in student achievement as socio-economic status, race, or gender. The benefits are greatest when parents are engaged in education consistently and from a young age.
- What parents/families do in the home environment remains significantly more important to student achievement than what they do in the school setting.

Information based on research by: Henderson, A.T., and Berla, N. (2002, p. 24). *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement*, National Center for Family & Community Connections with Schools; The Office of Special Education Programs, United States Department of Education; Michigan Department of Education; *Urban Education Journal*,(40)3, 259-260), 2005.