

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Parents can assist their children and the school in several ways. A variety of methods may be used to increase parental participation in school programs and activities. In addition to school “open house” and increased communication between parents and teachers, schools may encourage parent volunteers to supervise and chaperone at school events and clubs.

Several federally funded programs require parental input. Parents of participating children must be included in planning and implementing such programs. Involvement in federal programs includes informing parents of the reasons, objectives and methods of the program; training parents to work with their children at home; one-on-one consultation; and ensuring opportunities for participation to those parents lacking literacy skills.

In an effort to involve parents who are illiterate or semi-literate, the district may seek to design special programs, such as training these parents to teach selected skills to their children. In addition, older students and other adults in the community can be trained to work with younger children in the schools.

On the classroom level, teachers should be encouraged to develop practices for involving parents at home. These include planned home reading, informal learning activities, and homework contracts between parents and children.

In order to promote family involvement on all levels, the district should:

- Create a climate that fosters and supports greater family participation in the schools;
- Corroborate the link between parental involvement and student achievement;
- Provide training/in-service for staff and interested adults to build stronger relationships between home and school.

Ref: 20 U.S.C. 2726, 2731(a)(4)  
1100, Public Information Program  
1200, Community Involvement  
4532, School Volunteers  
4714, Parent Conferences

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