The Family Engagement Framework was developed by the California Department of Education (CDE) in collaboration with the California Comprehensive Center at WestEd. Foundational content and ongoing support were provided by the Family Area Network Board, an informal Title I advisory body to the CDE.

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The California Comprehensive Center—a partnership of lead agency WestEd and the American Institutes for Research and School Services of California—is part of a federal network of 16 regional comprehensive centers.

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Table of Contents

Message from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction ........................................... 3
Introduction ......................................................................................................................... 5
District Principles ............................................................................................................... 9
Required District Activities and Implementation Rubrics
  Build Capacity .................................................................................................................. 11
  Demonstrate Leadership ................................................................................................. 15
  Resources/Fiscal and Other ............................................................................................ 17
  Monitor Progress ............................................................................................................ 18
  Access and Equity .......................................................................................................... 20
Tools for Communicating with Families ........................................................................... 23
Appendixes
  Appendix A: Matrix of Federal and State Parent Involvement Requirements .............. 37
  Appendix B: Linking Parent Involvement to Student Achievement: A Review of Recent Literature .................................................................................................................................................................................. 39
  Appendix B.1. Annotated List of Selected Articles Linking Parent Involvement to Student Achievement .................................................................................................................. 45
References .......................................................................................................................... 49
Message from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction

I am pleased to announce the publication of the Family Engagement Framework, a joint project of the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Comprehensive Center (CA CC) at WestEd. This framework is an excellent tool for school districts and schools to use in developing and expanding school/family partnerships to support improved student learning outcomes.

The CDE has long supported family engagement through policies and programs that encourage parents and other family members to be actively involved in their children’s education and in district and school educational programs. Parents, families, and other caring adults provide the primary educational environment for children; parents are a child’s first teacher, and the home is a child’s first school. While the school and the home may operate independently, individuals and activities in each arena shape the education and development of the child. Together we can be more effective.

This Family Engagement Framework brings together research, promising practices, and program requirements to provide a tool for leaders in school districts and county offices of education to plan, implement, and evaluate family engagement practices that directly impact improved student achievement.

At the core of the framework are district principles that were developed collaboratively with input from a wide variety of parent, education, and community organizations. The district principles are essential actions for supporting family engagement at the district level. The principles describe expectations, or standards, for districts to engage family members in supporting their children’s education. The principles address capacity building, leadership, resource allocation, progress monitoring, access, and equity. Implementation activities are provided for each district principle, citing legal references where appropriate.

Please share this resource with school board members, parent involvement coordinators, school administrators, family members serving in leadership positions, and community partners to strengthen involvement and build relationships among critical partners in the education of California’s students.

Tom Torlakson
Introduction

Purpose
In support of establishing strong, healthy, and systematic school, family, and community partnerships statewide, the California Department of Education (CDE) engaged the assistance of the California Comprehensive Center at WestEd (CA CC) to develop a tool describing expectations and implementation strategies for integrated family engagement within state educational programs. This Family Engagement Framework is intended to provide guidance to educators, districts, schools, families, and communities as they plan, implement, and evaluate strategies across multiple programs for effective family engagement to support student achievement and close the academic achievement gap.

Development
In 2003, the Family Area Network (FAN) Board, an informal advisory body to the CDE Title I Office, engaged parent and educational leaders in developing a set of draft Model Standards for Family Involvement (Standards) grounded in legal statute and academic research. The draft Standards were aligned with six types of parent involvement described in the model for school, family, and community partnerships from the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University (Epstein, 2002): (1) parenting, (2) communicating, (3) volunteering, (4) learning at home, (5) decision making, and (6) collaborating with the community.

The draft Standards addressed all levels (state, regional, county, district, school, classroom, and family) of the educational system and identified opportunities to strengthen school, family, and community partnerships through leadership, capacity building, and accountability. Although stakeholders, including parent leaders, teachers, school and district administrators, and professional associations, expressed a need and appreciation for the Standards, they suggested that the guidance should be provided in a more concise format.

In 2006, CDE, with the assistance of the CA CC, began to analyze and revise the draft Standards. After several months of discussion, editing, and reorganization, the Family Engagement Framework (Framework) was conceptualized.

National educational policies continued to emphasize the importance of establishing programs to involve families and practices to empower and engage families in the educational process (ED, 2010). Over the next several years, additional activities were conducted to assure that

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Family Engagement Framework

Principles
• Reference program requirements as well as six types of parent involvement.
• Differentiate for each level of education implementation, such as district and school.
• Address five domains: Capacity building, leadership, resources, progress monitoring, and equity.

Required District Activities
• Incorporate federal and state laws and regulations.

Implementation Rubrics
• Reflect FAN draft Standards.
• Plan and evaluate.
• Link to research and promising practices.

Tools for Communicating with Families
• Are reproducible or adaptable.
• May be disseminated in print or via the Internet.
the Framework addressed state and federal requirements and integrated recent research and useful resources. CA CC staff conducted an extensive review of the California Education Code (EC) and pertinent regulations for CDE programs to identify requirements related to parent involvement across programs; CDE staff across programs provided verification of the identified requirements. Within regulations for educational programs implemented by CDE, the review found the following requirements:

- Broad parent involvement requirements that apply to all instructional programs
- Requirements that apply to all categorical programs
- Requirements specific to 20 different categorical and individual programs

The Matrix of Federal and State Parent Involvement Requirements (Appendix A) lists the legal citations for parent involvement requirements across CDE programs. The citations are categorized by program and by CDE Categorical Program Monitoring (CPM) dimensions to provide a link to state accountability and monitoring processes and to illustrate the breadth of parent involvement requirements across programs. With information provided by CPM instruments and the efforts of CDE staff across programs, the principles of the Family Engagement Framework are coordinated with the seven CDE CPM dimensions:

I. **Involvement.** Parents, staff, students, and community members participate in developing, implementing, and evaluating core and categorical programs.

II. **Governance and Administration.** Policies, plans, and administration of categorical programs meet statutory requirements.

III. **Funding.** Allocation and use of funds meet statutory requirements for allowable expenditures.

IV. **Standards, Assessment, and Accountability.** Categorical programs meet state standards, are based on the assessed needs of program participants, and achieve the intended outcomes of the categorical program.

V. **Staffing and Professional Development.** Staff members are recruited, trained, assigned, and assisted to ensure the program’s effectiveness.

VI. **Opportunity and Equal Educational Access.** Participants have equitable access to all programs the local educational agency (LEA) provides, as required by law.

VII. **Teaching and Learning.** Participants receive core and categorical program services that meet their assessed needs.

To further inform the development of the Framework’s content, CA CC staff conducted a focused review of recent literature to identify a current body of research linking specific parent involvement activities to student achievement. The search phrases used to identify research articles were “parent involvement” and “parent participation.” Currently, in educational research, the term “engagement” is associated most often with early parent-child relationships and bonding. “Parent involvement” and “parent participation” more frequently link to research examining the kind of engaged communication and interaction described in the Family Engagement Framework. To ensure that articles relevant to current practice and written under a rigorous standard of research were identified, only peer-reviewed articles published within the last nine years (2001–2010) were sought. The focused literature review (Appendix B, Linking Parent Involvement to Student Achievement: a Review of Recent Literature) may serve as a resource to administrators and teachers seeking to identify, select, and support effective and promising practices in parent involvement. The Annotated List of Selected Articles Linking Parent Involvement to Student Achievement (Appendix B.1) describes each of the articles referenced in the Framework.

Content describing required and recommended district-level parent and community involvement activities was periodically sent to parent resource and involvement groups for review and input. Members of the FAN Board, Parent Information and Resource Centers, Parent Training and Information Centers, Family Empowerment Centers, and the California Parent Teacher Association provided input. In 2009, the FAN Board endorsed the draft Framework as a tool and recommended that CDE and the CA CC move forward with production and dissemination.
**Components and Layout of the Framework**

Just as the content of the *Family Engagement Framework* has undergone significant transformation over the last five years, so too has the name. Originally referred to as the “Parent Involvement Standards,” the final name reflects commitment to comprehensive partnering among school, family, and community members in support of education. The terms “parent involvement” and “family involvement” generally refer to a range of activities. They are often used interchangeably with other terms, like “parent engagement,” “parent participation,” and “family engagement.”

The proposal to reauthorize the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ED, 2010) uses the term “family engagement,” referring to an integrated strategy across multiple programs. The *Family Engagement Framework* provides guidance for pursuing an integrated strategy to support the exchange of information, purposeful interaction, and meaningful participation among schools, families, and community partners to support student learning and achievement. In this document, “parent involvement” and “family involvement” are generally used interchangeably.

**District Principles**

The District Principles of the *Family Engagement Framework* provide a one-page overview of the essential actions for family and community involvement at the district level. Citations in support of specific principles are provided. There are 18 principles arranged within five action areas; the five action areas reference the CPM dimensions:

1. **Build Capacity** – addresses CPM Dimension I: Involvement; CPM Dimension V: Staffing and Professional Development; CPM Dimension VII: Teaching and Learning
2. **Demonstrate Leadership** – addresses CPM Dimension II: Governance and Administration
3. **Resources: Fiscal and Other** – addresses CPM Dimension III: Funding
4. **Monitor Progress** – addresses CPM Dimension IV: Standards, Assessment, and Accountability
5. **Access and Equity** – addresses CPM Dimension VI: Opportunity and Equal Educational Access

**Required District Activities and Implementation Rubrics**

The Required District Activities and Implementation Rubrics of the *Family Engagement Framework* describe specific district actions for each of the 18 District Principles. The Required District Activities column in the rubrics presents parent involvement activities that are required under educational program regulations; citations for specific laws and regulations follow each requirement. Actions for implementation of the required activities are described qualitatively in the corresponding rubrics columns progressing left to right from Basic to Progressive and Innovative Implementation. The description of Basic Implementation actions reflects Required Activities. The descriptions of Progressive and Innovative Implementation reflect research and promising practice models. The research informing the *Framework* is reviewed in Appendix B, Linking Parent Involvement to Student Achievement: A Review of Recent Literature.

**Tools for Communicating with Families**

The Tools for Communicating with Families present the content from the Principles, Required District Activities, and Implementation Rubrics in a simpler, more straightforward format. They may be used to present concepts in the *Framework* to family and community members who do not need access to legal citations and regulatory language. Each single page may be used as a stand-alone communication within a newsletter, parent orientation guide, bulk e-mail, or training packet. Required District Activities are described along with suggestions for parents to pursue involvement at the level at which they are comfortable. The suggestions for parent involvement may lead to development of deeper family involvement and engagement activities at more progressive and innovative levels.
1. BUILD CAPACITY

1.01 Ensure that all principals understand and implement required and effective parental involvement practices at their schools [Title I, Part A, 1118 (a)(1)].

1.02 Establish family-friendly volunteer policies to recruit and organize help and support from parents.

1.03 Train parents to successfully participate in curricular and budgetary decision making.

1.04 Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development.

1.05 Ensure staff and family access to training in effective school, family, and community partnerships.

1.06 Train staff, with the assistance of parents, in how to reach out to and work with parents as equal partners in their children’s education [Title I, Part A, 1118 (e)(3)].

1.07 Ensure that teachers and families have knowledge and tools to help students with homework and other curriculum-related activities.

2. DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP

2.01 Ensure that all schools have parent/family involvement programs (EC 11502 – 11504).

2.02 Meet requirements of state and federal law regarding family involvement.
   a. Ensure parent representation on district and school committees as required by law.
   b. Establish district family involvement policies and programs [Title I, Part A, 1118 (a)(2); EC 11503 – 11504].

2.03 Involve families in advisory bodies and training strategies.

3. RESOURCES: FISCAL AND OTHER

3.01 Allocate resources and assign staff to implement the plan.

4. MONITOR PROGRESS

4.01 Ensure all schools integrate parental involvement programs into the school’s Single Plan for Student Achievement [EC 11502(e), 11504].

4.02 Provide oversight, support, and coordination of parent involvement activities among district schools and programs.

4.03 Document progress of each school’s implementation of its parent involvement program [EC 11503(c)(d), refers specifically to Title I].

4.04 Assess every principal’s effectiveness in establishing and maintaining school, family, and community partnerships at his or her school.

5. ACCESS AND EQUITY

5.01 Ensure that critical parent information is readily available in accessible formats and languages spoken by families in the district [EC 48985].

5.02 Ensure that parent representation on committees reflects the composition of the student body.

5.03 Ensure that schools have a system in place with multiple strategies to facilitate two-way communication with parents and community members on a regular basis [EC 11502(c), EC 11503(b)(4)].
### Required District Activities and Implementation Rubrics

#### 1. Build Capacity
This set of rubrics describes program implementation addressing CPM Dimension I: Involvement, CPM Dimension V: Staffing and Professional Development, and CPM Dimension VII: Teaching and Learning.

#### 1.01 Ensure all principals understand and implement required and effective parental involvement practices at their schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal and State Activities</th>
<th>Basic Implementation</th>
<th>Progressive Implementation</th>
<th>Innovative Implementation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support to school staff for including families as participants in local educational agency (LEA) and school governance and decision making [20 United States Code (USC) 6318(a) (2)(B)].</td>
<td>Provide principals • technical assistance materials for training advisory committees in their roles and responsibilities; • information, support, and professional development opportunities addressing the role of families as participants in LEA and school governance and decision making; • information and models for required school-level plans for parent involvement; • information and guidance on involving families in the development of required parent involvement and education plans; • support to establish and hold regular, calendared meetings of required parent community advisory committees; and support school sites to conduct at least two parent-teacher conferences per year.</td>
<td>In addition to basic training on the role of families in governance and decision making, provide principals with training and resources on • engaging with family members individually or as members of advisory groups to solve problems, draft policy, and make decisions; and/or • linking school-level plans and school-parent compacts to student learning; and/or • focusing advisory group and council activities to support student achievement; and/or encourage principals to increase opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to the required two.</td>
<td>In addition to basic and progressive training for principals, employ joint training and team-building activities for principals and parent leaders to • build relationships; • engage in strategic planning; • examine student achievement in relationship to parent involvement; and/or encourage principals to schedule ongoing opportunities for parent-teacher communication and interaction.</td>
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Establish parent/community advisory committees [5 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 18275, EC 56190].

Ensure that plans for parent involvement and education include
- Parent conferences
  - At least two per year [5 CCR 18275].

#### 1.02 Establish family-friendly volunteer policies to recruit and organize parent help and support.

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<tr>
<td>Facilitate supervision of family members volunteering time and resources to improve school facilities and programs [28 EC 51101(a)(3)].</td>
<td>Provide teachers with written information and guidance on supervising parent volunteers who are assisting in classrooms.</td>
<td>In addition to basic information and guidance, develop and disseminate volunteer management resources and provide teachers with training on their use, including: • handbook; • volunteer forms; • guidelines for recruiting, screening, training, and retaining volunteers; • certificates of recognition.</td>
<td>In addition to teacher training and resources, provide training for parents in specific skills for working with children in classrooms and/or provide fiscal or other real support for a recognition program for classroom volunteers and family/teacher leaders.</td>
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</table>
1.03 Train parents to successfully participate in curricular and budgetary decision making.

Federal and State Activities
Provide training and resources to parents on
- content standards;
- academic achievement standards;
- academic assessment;
- parent involvement requirements;
- monitoring academic progress;
- working with teachers.

Basic Implementation
Provide training and resources to parents, especially those serving on advisory committees, to include
- content standards;
- academic achievement standards;
- academic assessment;
- parent involvement requirements;
- monitoring academic progress;
- working with teachers.

Progressive Implementation
In addition to providing training to parents serving on advisory committees,
- provide training accessible to all families on parent/family involvement policies, plans, roles, and responsibilities; and/or
- actively recruit new parents to participate in training and on advisory committees;
- involve parents in the development of training.

Innovative Implementation
In addition to progressive training activities,
- utilize the Internet to survey parents and/or provide information and training to facilitate their participation in decision making; and/or
- adopt a train-the-trainer model, using veteran parents for ongoing training of new parents;
- provide parents/family members Internet access through public computer labs.

Provide targeted training and resources to advisory committee members [EC 62002.5, 5 CCR 11308(d), 20 USC 6312(g)(4)].

1.04 Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development.

Federal and State Activities
Conduct outreach to community agencies to
- inform of services;
- solicit support.

Basic Implementation
Utilize one-way communication outlets (mailers, brochures, public service announcements) to community agencies to
- provide information about educational services;
- solicit support for educational programs;
and ensure that parent involvement activities address the needs of and are available to families with children
- across education programs;
- in public preschool; and
work with parent resource centers (established under Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) to implement parent involvement activities.

Progressive Implementation
In addition to basic activities,
- provide teachers with lists of available community resources; and/or
- provide presentations for, attend functions of, and maintain communications with community organizations to cultivate relationships in support of education; and/or
- collaborate with other public agencies providing services to families to support parent/family involvement in education; and/or
encourage parent resource centers to collaborate to provide services and support to all families.

Innovative Implementation
Form a partnership* with community-based organizations and other public agencies to
- plan or coordinate parent/family involvement activities and programs;
- obtain or provide technical assistance;
- establish effective channels for communicating with families;
- disseminate resources and information on an ongoing basis; and/or
support the establishment of a comprehensive, collaborative parent resource center to meet the needs of all families.

* Example: Action Team for Partnerships as described by Epstein, 2002.
**1.05 Ensure staff and family access to training in effective school, family, and community partnerships.**

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| Provide parent orientation [5 CCR 18275]. | Provide printed information and resources to support parent orientation activities at schools and disseminate to parents and parent organizations, via mail and Internet, information about the appropriate PIRC. | **In addition to** providing basic information and linkage to resources,  
• survey parents to determine information, skill, and support needs for participation; and/or  
• provide training for staff and families on  
  o respectful partnerships;  
  o organizing programs;  
  o conducting meetings;  
  o linking program activities to academic goals;  
  o skills for collaboration; and/or  
  • access PIRC as a training resource for staff and families. | **In addition to** providing training for staff and families,  
• involve parents in training design and delivery; and/or  
• support participation of district and school teams in train-the-trainer opportunities, such as the National Network of Partnership Schools Leadership Institute; and/or  
• encourage the formation of parent groups, even when not state-mandated, and provide space for formal and informal meetings. |

**Inform parents and parent organizations of information available from Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs) [20 USC 6318(g)].**

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| Educate staff in the value of parent involvement, outreach to parents, communication with parents, partnering, implementing parent programs, and building ties between parents and the school [20 USC 6318(e)(3), EC 8238.3(c)]. | Provide information, support, and professional development for staff on parent/family involvement, including  
• the value of parent/family involvement;  
• outreach, communication, and partnering with parents/families;  
• implementing parent/family programs;  
• building ties between the home and the school; and utilize parent input to design and deliver staff training on parent involvement. | Augment basic information and support with professional development in specific strategies for parent/family involvement provided annually via  
• regular in-service days;  
• principals’ meetings;  
• leadership days; and/or  
provide professional development, including strategies and resources for communicating with parents about  
• content standards;  
• expectations for student achievement;  
• strategies for parents to support student achievement and learning at home. | **In addition to** providing information and training for all staff, establish and provide training to a designated district parent involvement leadership team, and/or  
**in addition to** consulting parents for input on training, utilize parent leaders as partners in the delivery of training. |

**1.06 Train staff, with the assistance of parents, in how to reach out to and work with parents as equal partners in their children’s education.**

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| Educate staff in the value of parent involvement, outreach to parents, communication with parents, partnering, implementing parent programs, and building ties between parents and the school [20 USC 6318(e)(3), EC 8238.3(c)]. | Provide information, support, and professional development for staff on parent/family involvement, including  
• the value of parent/family involvement;  
• outreach, communication, and partnering with parents/families;  
• implementing parent/family programs;  
• building ties between the home and the school; and utilize parent input to design and deliver staff training on parent involvement. | Augment basic information and support with professional development in specific strategies for parent/family involvement provided annually via  
• regular in-service days;  
• principals’ meetings;  
• leadership days; and/or  
provide professional development, including strategies and resources for communicating with parents about  
• content standards;  
• expectations for student achievement;  
• strategies for parents to support student achievement and learning at home. | **In addition to** providing information and training for all staff, establish and provide training to a designated district parent involvement leadership team, and/or  
**in addition to** consulting parents for input on training, utilize parent leaders as partners in the delivery of training. |
1.07 Ensure that teachers and families have the knowledge and tools to help students with homework and other curriculum-related activities.

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<tr>
<td>Establish guidelines and procedures for classroom observations [27 EC 49091.10(b)].</td>
<td>Establish guidelines and procedures for parents visiting classrooms to observe. and Survey parents, or support schools to survey parents, to plan and conduct activities to help parents support child learning and development.</td>
<td>Develop parent guides and tools to link classroom observation to supporting learning at home. and/or Include items in the survey to parents/families to assess what families are already doing and what they need to learn to support learning at home. and/or Translate basic written information and resources into languages used by families in the district. and/or In addition to written information for families, provide training for parents. and/or Include in parent training specific skill areas identified through the district survey. and/or Train teachers in • the use of interactive homework; • other effective strategies for supporting homework. and/or Provide family literacy services to develop skills of family members to support learning at home.</td>
<td>Develop parent-teacher observation follow-up activities to encourage partnering; and/or support parent resource centers to • collect and disseminate resources on environments and approaches that support learning at home; • publish and/or post information; • establish an accessible information library and/or center; • establish a mobile library and/or center; and/or train family members and teachers together and/or in teams to support strategies for learning at home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey parents to plan and conduct activities to help parents support child learning and development [5 CCR 18280].</td>
<td>Disseminate information to families on • academic performance standards; • proficiencies; • expected skills; • school rules; • results of standardized and statewide tests [28 EC 51101(a)(5)]; • materials and training to help parents work with their children [20 USC 6318(e)(2); 20 USC 6381d(2),(4),(7); 8238.1]; • training to participate in team meetings and decisions involving their own children [EC 56363(b)(11); CCR 3051.11].</td>
<td>and/or Include items in the survey to parents/families to assess what families are already doing and what they need to learn to support learning at home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide information to families [20 USC 6318(e)(1), 28 EC 51101(a)(11-12)] regarding • academic performance standards; • proficiencies; • expected skills; • school rules; • results of standardized and statewide tests [28 EC 51101(a)(5)]; • materials and training to help parents work with their children [20 USC 6318(e)(2); 20 USC 6381d(2),(4),(7); 8238.1]; • training to participate in team meetings and decisions involving their own children [EC 56363(b)(11); CCR 3051.11].</td>
<td>and/or Develop parent guides and tools to link classroom observation to supporting learning at home. and/or Include items in the survey to parents/families to assess what families are already doing and what they need to learn to support learning at home. and/or Translate basic written information and resources into languages used by families in the district. and/or In addition to written information for families, provide training for parents. and/or Include in parent training specific skill areas identified through the district survey. and/or Train teachers in • the use of interactive homework; • other effective strategies for supporting homework. and/or Provide family literacy services to develop skills of family members to support learning at home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conduct other activities to encourage and support parents, including parent resource centers [20 USC 6381(e)(4)].</td>
<td>and/or Develop parent guides and tools to link classroom observation to supporting learning at home. and/or Include items in the survey to parents/families to assess what families are already doing and what they need to learn to support learning at home. and/or Translate basic written information and resources into languages used by families in the district. and/or In addition to written information for families, provide training for parents. and/or Include in parent training specific skill areas identified through the district survey. and/or Train teachers in • the use of interactive homework; • other effective strategies for supporting homework. and/or Provide family literacy services to develop skills of family members to support learning at home.</td>
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**Notes:**
- EC: California Education Code
- CCR: California Code of Regulations
- USC: United States Code
- EC 8238.1: California Education Code 8238.1
- CCR 3051.11: California Code of Regulations 3051.11
- EC 56363(b)(11): California Education Code 56363(b)(11)
- CCR 3051.11: California Code of Regulations 3051.11
- EC 56363(b)(11): California Education Code 56363(b)(11)
- CCR 3051.11: California Code of Regulations 3051.11
2. Demonstrate Leadership
This set of rubrics describes program implementation addressing CPM Dimension II: Governance and Administration.

2.01 Ensure that all schools have family/parent involvement programs.

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<tr>
<td>Establish a districtwide, board-adopted parent involvement policy applicable to all schools [EC 11504].</td>
<td>Document that the district governing board has adopted a parent involvement policy applicable to all schools that addresses the program requirements for Title I schools in its district (see 2.02).</td>
<td>Establish a parent involvement leadership team to guide and coordinate parent involvement programs throughout the district, including • membership of teachers, parents, administrators, and other partners; • regularly scheduled meetings; and/or in developing the district parent involvement policy and plan, utilize a planning model to • analyze surveys; • set goals and expectations; • identify and design supports to achieve expectations; • identify staff and resources to support the plan.</td>
<td>Include in the district parent involvement leadership team • membership representative of all district schools; • a plan for continuity during changes in district leadership; and/or include in the district parent involvement policy • personnel policies that incorporate parent involvement in o staff selection, evaluation, promotion, and development; o preparation of new staff; o contract time for meeting with families; o rewards and incentives; • school-home communication; • guidelines for o agreements with community agencies; o partnering with businesses; o district- and school-level decision making; o parent choice among schools and programs.</td>
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Integrate parent involvement programs into school plans for academic accountability [EC 11502(e)].

Ensure that policies and programs for Title I programs meet requirements for parent involvement under Title I [EC 11503].

2.02 Meet requirements of state and federal law regarding family involvement.

a. Ensure parent representation on district and school committees as required by law.

b. Establish district family involvement policies and programs.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish a District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC), at least 51 percent of whose members are parents of English learners [CCR 11308, EC 52176(a)].</td>
<td>Ensure that at least 51 percent of DELAC members are parents of English learners. and Ensure that the district has a Parent Advisory Committee for early childhood programs. and</td>
<td>Actively inform and recruit parents representative of the student population about opportunities to participate in advisory groups.</td>
<td>Train parents to serve on advisory bodies, including school site and district councils.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Establish a Parent Advisory Committee (Child Care and Development) [CCR 18276].

Establish a Community Advisory Committee, including parents of individuals with exceptional needs and other pupils enrolled in school [EC 56190].

Ensure that the district has a Parent Advisory Committee for early childhood programs. and Ensure that the district Community Advisory Committee includes parents of students with exceptional needs and other pupils enrolled in school.
2.02 (continued) Meet requirements of state and federal law regarding family involvement.

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<tr>
<td>Develop and review with and distribute to parents a written parent involvement policy [20 USC 6318(a)(2), 28 EC 51101(b)] describing how the LEA will involve parents in program planning, review, and improvement [20 USC 6318(a)];</td>
<td>Develop with and distribute to parents an annually updated written parent involvement policy, outlining the district’s Title I plan for involving parents in program planning, review, and improvement;</td>
<td>In developing the district parent involvement policy and plan, establish school improvement efforts and student performance goals as the foundation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>assist schools to implement effective parent involvement activities;</td>
<td>assisting schools to implement effective parent involvement activities;</td>
<td>To facilitate linking the parent involvement policy and plan to school improvement and student achievement, establish an annual work plan identifying strategies; timelines; persons responsible for implementation; measurable goals; a plan for dissemination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>build capacity for parent involvement;</td>
<td>building capacity for parent involvement;</td>
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<tr>
<td>coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies across programs;</td>
<td>coordinating and integrating parent involvement strategies across programs;</td>
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<tr>
<td>conduct an annual evaluation of the impact of the parent involvement policy, including improvement in academic achievement;</td>
<td>conducting an annual evaluation of the impact of the parent involvement policy, including improvement in academic achievement;</td>
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<tr>
<td>barriers to parent participation;</td>
<td>barriers to parent participation;</td>
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<tr>
<td>strategies for effective parent involvement.</td>
<td>strategies for effective parent involvement;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Include in the plan regular and periodic training [7 EC 11503(b)] on how parents can support learning at home and at school; activities, strategies, and materials to support learning at home and at school; child development; positive discipline; healthy parent-child relationships; effective two-way, home-school communication.</td>
<td>regular and periodic parent training on how to support learning at home and at school; activities, strategies, and materials to support learning at home and at school; child development; positive discipline; healthy parent-child relationships; effective two-way, home-school communication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Involve parents in draft and review of the policy. Update the policy periodically.</td>
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### 2.03 Involve families in advisory bodies and training strategies.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Include parents in the decisions regarding how funds are allotted for parent involvement activities [20 USC 6318(3)(8)].</td>
<td>Include parents in decisions regarding the allotment of funds and development of programs for parent/family involvement activities, specifically • involve DELAC; • send notice of and hold regular meetings to obtain input of parents of English learners.</td>
<td>Actively promote and dedicate time at advisory meetings for public input to obtain additional parental perspectives and/or invite and encourage parents to be active members of district personnel development work groups or committees.</td>
<td>Encourage parents to chair or co-chair advisory bodies and/or support parent advisory committee members to serve as liaisons to families in their schools or communities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Involve DELAC [5 CCR 11308(c)].</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consult parents as programs are being developed [20 USC 7424(c)].</td>
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<tr>
<td>Send notice of and hold regular meetings to obtain recommendations of parents of English learners [20 USC 7012(c)(2)].</td>
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</table>

### 3. Resources/Fiscal and Other

This set of rubrics describe program implementation addressing CPM Program Dimension III: Funding.

#### 3.01 Allocate resources and assign staff to implement plan.

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<th>Federal and State Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reserve not less than 1 percent of Title I funds to carry out requirements for parent involvement, unless 1 percent of district allocation is $5,000 or less [20 USC 6318(a)(3)(A)].</td>
<td>Dedicate not less than 1 percent of Title I funds to carry out requirements for parent involvement, unless 1 percent of district allocation is $5,000 or less, and provide other reasonable support for parent involvement activities as parents may request [20 USC 6318(c)(14)].</td>
<td>Set and expend an adequate budget for parent involvement programs and activities, with input from parents/families and appropriate advisory groups.</td>
<td>Hire a full-time parent involvement staff person, ideally a parent leader, responsible for • coordinating the training, strategies, communication processes, and resources; • reporting on parent involvement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide other reasonable support for parent involvement activities as parents may request [20 USC 6318(c)(14)].</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. **Monitor Progress**

This set of rubrics describes program implementation addressing CPM Dimension IV: Standards, Assessment, and Accountability.

### 4.01 Ensure that all schools integrate parent involvement programs into their Single Plan for Student Achievement.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure that the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) has been prepared with review and advice from appropriate parent/community advisory committees, including DELAC and parents of English learners [EC 64001(a), 5 CCR 11308(c)(3), 20 USC 6312(g)(1)(B)(2), 20 USC 7012].</td>
<td>Develop and implement processes to verify that each school’s SPSA has been prepared with review and advice from appropriate parent/community advisory committees, including DELAC and parents of English learners.</td>
<td><em>In addition to verifying content of SPSAs, provide information and resources to school administrators and advisory group members on linking parent involvement plans to SPSA and special education district performance goals.</em></td>
<td><em>In addition to verifying content of SPSAs, provide training to school administrators and advisory group members on linking parent involvement plans to SPSA and special education district performance goals.</em></td>
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### 4.02 Provide oversight, support, and coordination of parent involvement activities among district schools and programs.

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<tr>
<td>Coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies under • Title I; • Head Start/Early Head Start; • Even Start; • Parents as Teachers; • Home Interaction Program for Preschool Youngsters; • state preschools. [20 USC 6318(a)(2)(D)]</td>
<td>Coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies across programs, including • Title I; • Head Start/Early Head Start; • Even Start; • Parents as Teachers; • Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters; • state preschools.</td>
<td>Collect documents from all parent involvement groups and programs and make them available at one central access point, online, and/or at a district office, including • agendas; • meeting notes; • outreach materials; • reports; and/or include parent/family input in the collection of data for district monitoring processes (Categorical Program Monitoring, Consolidated Application, and others as appropriate).</td>
<td>Hold regular meetings of advisory committee chairs, across programs, to facilitate collaboration; and/or support parent resource and advisory bodies across programs to jointly conduct parent events and trainings; and/or include family members on district monitoring teams (Categorical Program Monitoring, Consolidated Application, and others as appropriate).</td>
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4.03 Document progress of each school’s implementation of its parent involvement program.

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<td></td>
<td>Evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy:</td>
<td>Expand collection of evaluation feedback to include students, teachers, administrators, and community members, in writing or via the Internet, and/or create an evaluation panel, including parents, to coordinate the review of parental involvement with representation from all schools; and/or in addition to addressing challenges, acknowledge successes in parent/family involvement.</td>
<td>In addition to evaluative feedback, include program evaluation within the parent involvement plan: • Identify measures of effectiveness linked to o student achievement; o specific parent involvement activities. • Identify tools and processes for collecting data. • Implement a schedule for data collection. • Analyze data to identify practices that produce specific results for students and schools.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Identify barriers to participation, especially for diverse parents.</td>
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<td>• Use findings to design more effective strategies.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Revise parent involvement policies, as needed. [Refers specifically to Title I, 20 USC 6318(a)(2)(E), EC 11503(c)-(d)]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey families or collect other evaluation data annually to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy and to identify barriers to participation, especially for diverse parents; and use the survey results to design more effective parent involvement strategies; and use the evaluation data to inform district administration and advisory groups in the revision of parent involvement policies annually.</td>
<td>Expand collection of evaluation feedback to include students, teachers, administrators, and community members, in writing or via the Internet, and/or create an evaluation panel, including parents, to coordinate the review of parental involvement with representation from all schools; and/or in addition to addressing challenges, acknowledge successes in parent/family involvement.</td>
<td>In addition to evaluative feedback, include program evaluation within the parent involvement plan: • Identify measures of effectiveness linked to o student achievement; o specific parent involvement activities. • Identify tools and processes for collecting data. • Implement a schedule for data collection. • Analyze data to identify practices that produce specific results for students and schools.</td>
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4.04 Assess every principal’s effectiveness in establishing and maintaining school, family, and community partnerships at his or her school.

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<td>Address parent involvement in school principal’s job description, including</td>
<td>In addition to the job description, address parent involvement in the school principal’s performance planning, including • professional development goals; • achievements; and/or provide information, resources, and/or training to principals on the use of reflective practice and self-assessment to examine their own skills and actions in parent involvement.</td>
<td>In addition to performance planning, include parent involvement in principal performance evaluation: • Recommend professional development to address issues. • Recognize achievements.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• roles and responsibilities;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• expectations and goals.</td>
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5. Access and Equity
This set of rubrics describes program implementation addressing CPM Dimension VI: Opportunity and Equal Educational Access.

5.01 Ensure that critical parent information is readily available in accessible formats and languages spoken by families in the district.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Provide parents with timely information about schools and students in a language and format that they can understand [20 USC 6318(f), 28 EC 51101.1, EC 56306(a), EC 56341.5(i)].</td>
<td>Develop and disseminate critical school and student information to families • in their home language, when required; • in a time frame that reasonably allows for family follow-up or response, if needed, including o district parent involvement policy; o notice to parents of English learners about how they can be involved in the education of their children; o all required parent notifications (under Titles I, III, IX, and X; Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act; and IDEA); and solicit review and comment from DELAC on all required written notifications.</td>
<td>In addition to the development and dissemination of information • establish systems to support schools to address a broad range of home languages with translation and interpretation; and/or • provide training and information to principals and staff on o communicating with families of English learners; o required parent notifications; and/or</td>
<td>In addition to dissemination of critical information via school outlets, make important information, including the parent involvement policy, available to community groups for broader dissemination; and/or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide parent involvement policy to parents in an understandable and uniform format [20 USC 6318(a)(2) and (f)].</td>
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<td>In addition to providing information and training to staff, actively recruit and hire staff fluent in the dominant languages used by parents; and/or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solicit review and comment from DELAC on written notifications [5 CCR 11308(c)(7)].</td>
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<td>In addition to soliciting input from advisory groups, establish a work group, including staff, parents/families, and community members, dedicated to ongoing examination of challenges and development of solutions for providing critical information to a diverse population of families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inform parents of English learners how they can be involved in the education of their children [20 USC 7012(e)(1)].</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet parent notification requirements (under Titles I, III, IX, and X; Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act; and IDEA) [EC 51101(a)(4) and (16); 20 USC 7012(b) and (c)(2); EC 48985; EC 56301(d)(1); EC 56329; EC 56346].</td>
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5.02 Ensure that parent representation on committees reflects the composition of the student body.

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<tr>
<td>Provide opportunities for the participation of parents who are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, have disabilities, are migratory, or have children with disabilities [20 USC 6318(a)(2)(E) and (I), EC 56193].</td>
<td>Involve parents representative of the student population, including those who are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, have disabilities, are migratory, or have children with disabilities to serve on committees, by • conducting outreach targeted to these groups; • providing reasonable support for involvement and participation.</td>
<td>Regularly survey members and monitor membership to ensure that parent representation on committees is representative of the student population and includes parents who are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, have disabilities, are migratory, or have children with disabilities.</td>
<td>Establish policies that support and respect • family responsibilities; • the variety of parenting traditions and practices within the community’s cultural and religious diversity; • disability as another form of diversity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Involves family and community members representative of the student population [20 USC 1400 § 650].</td>
<td>Provide reasonable support for parent involvement and participation [20 USC 6318(e) (14)].</td>
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5.03 Ensure that schools have a system in place with multiple strategies to facilitate two-way communication with parents and community members on a regular basis.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate scheduling of parent-teacher conferences across the district [5 CCR 18275].</td>
<td>Coordinate scheduling of parent-teacher conferences across the district and conduct input meetings and/or surveys to collect input from parents of children receiving special education services with the required response rate (for Special Education Self-Review).</td>
<td>In addition to regular print outreach and communication, employ Web-based applications to support ongoing communication and interaction between schools and parents/families and/or provide training and resources to personnel on • effective two-way communication; • interactive meetings and events; • interactive Web sites; • community outreach; • translation for parent/teacher conferences.</td>
<td>In addition to print and Web-based outreach and communication, collaborate with parent and community groups to conduct regularly scheduled community/town hall meetings, information fairs, and public forums and/or in addition to personnel development, conduct joint training for school personnel, parents/families, and community members on effective two-way communication and building relationships to support education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct parent input meetings and/or surveys with the required response rate (for Special Education Self-Review) [20 USC 1416(a) (3)(A) as cited in the California Part B State Performance Plan 2005-2010, Indicator #8].</td>
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Tools for Communicating with Families

Past and emerging national educational policies emphasize the importance of establishing programs to involve families and practices to empower and engage families in the educational process (ED, 2010). Implementing these services means moving away from checklists of discrete activities towards comprehensive family engagement programs that create open communication and strong collaboration among schools, families, teachers, and districts to increase student achievement. A common understanding of the guiding principles, goals, and strategies for family engagement will support effective communication and collaboration.

These Tools for Communicating with Families present the content from the required district activities and implementation rubrics, described in the preceding part of this document, in a simpler, more straight-forward format. The tools may be copied or adapted for use in newsletters, e-mails, and other outreach efforts to families to encourage family engagement and partnering with the district. The information on pages 26 through 31 may be disseminated as single pages, a series, or a five-page document to communicate the Framework’s family engagement principles to families. The Local Educational Agency (LEA) may add school contact information at the bottom of these pages by hand or with labels prior to copying for distribution.
What Is Family Involvement?
Family involvement is communicating and doing things with your student, your student’s teacher, or your student’s school to support your student’s learning and success. Parents, family members, and other caregivers can be involved in a student’s education in many ways.

What you can do at home:
• Talk with your student about homework and offer to help your student understand and learn.
• Talk with your student about the importance of learning.
• Talk with your student about college and careers.
• Help your student organize homework.
• Read notes, announcements, and newsletters from the school.
• Send notes or call the school to communicate with teachers and other school staff.
• Fill out and send back surveys to share your ideas about supporting your student’s learning and growth.
• Ask for and read a copy of your district’s parent involvement policy.

What you can do at the school:
• Attend parent orientation or “Back-to-School Night.”
• Visit the parent resource center.
• Talk with the principal about your student.
• Talk with the principal about parent involvement opportunities at the school.
• Attend parent education and information events.
• Attend advisory committee meetings.
• Serve on an advisory committee to provide input on important decisions and spending.
• Help write and review the parent involvement plans.

What you can do at the district office:
• Attend trainings on the curriculum and school budgets.
• Attend advisory committee meetings.
• Serve on an advisory committee to provide input on important decisions and spending.
• Help write and review the parent involvement policy and plans.
• Help plan, design, and provide training for principals and teachers.
• Link the district with other community organizations you know.

For more information, contact:
Family Engagement Activities

**SCHOOL INITIATED**

- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Visit your child’s classroom.
- Volunteer in the classroom (your child’s or another classroom).
- Volunteer at lunch or after school to support students.
- Attend or support schoolwide events.
- Visit the parent resource center.
- Attend advisory committee meetings.
- Participate on school-level advisory committees.
- Create a welcoming environment.
- Celebrate families and the assets they bring to schools.
- Work with families as partners to improve student achievement.
- Assist families to access community resources.

**FAMILY INITIATED**

- Participate on district-level advisory committees.
- Participate in planning and delivery of staff training on parent involvement.
- Participate in development and review of district- and school-level parent involvement plans and policies.
- Promote effective two-way communication with families.
- Assist families to create home conditions to support academic achievement.
- Provide information on expectations, standards, and how families can be involved, in an accessible language and format.
- Keep families informed on student progress and maintain regular communication.
- Provide quiet space at home for homework.
- Limit TV watching and video games.
- Read out loud to your student.
- Talk about school and the importance of learning.
- Respond to school surveys.
- Communicate with teachers about questions or concerns.
- Talk about college and careers.
- Help organize homework.
- Link learning to current events.

**At the District**

**At School**

**At Home**
Family Engagement Framework: District Principles

With the help of parents, educators and community partners, the California Department of Education (CDE) has developed a Family Engagement Framework. The Framework is intended to help district, school, family, and community leaders plan activities to involve families in education to support student learning and success. The Framework provides principles that describe requirements and activities for districts to support schools in working with families and providing family members with opportunities to actively support their children’s education. Here is a summary of the District Principles:

**Capacity**

- Make sure that all principals understand and implement required and effective parent involvement practices at their schools.
- Put in place family-friendly volunteer policies to build and organize help and support from parents.
- Train parents to successfully participate in decisions about curriculum and budget.
- Find and use resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development.
- Make sure staff and family know about and may attend training in effective school, family, and community partnerships.
- Train staff, with the help of parents, in how to reach out to and work with parents as equal partners in the education of their children.
- Make sure that teachers and families know how to help students with homework and other curriculum-related activities.

**Leadership**

- Make sure that all schools have parent/family involvement programs.
- Meet requirements of state and federal law regarding parent/family involvement.
  - Make sure parents are on district and school committees.
  - Put in place district family involvement policies and programs.
- Involve families in advisory groups and training activities.

**Resources**

- Provide funding and staff to put the parent/family involvement plan into practice.

**Progress**

- Make sure all schools include parent involvement programs in the school’s Single Plan for Student Achievement.
- Supervise and coordinate parent involvement activities across programs.
- Keep a record of progress of each school’s parent involvement program.
- Assess the effectiveness of school, family, and community partnerships at each school.

**Access and Equity**

- Make sure that parent information is provided in ways that are easy to find and read and in languages spoken by families in the district.
- Make sure parents serving on committees reflect the make-up of the student body.
- Make sure schools have ways to communicate from school to home and from home to school on a regular basis.

Search for the Family Engagement Framework at http://www.cde.ca.gov. For more information on family and parent involvement opportunities at your school, contact:
Helping the District Increase Family Engagement: What Can You Do?

The California Department of Education’s *Family Engagement Framework (Framework)* describes requirements for parent involvement in education and ways that districts may meet those requirements. Are you interested in becoming more involved in the district’s family engagement program? Here are some ideas about how you can support the learning and success of your own and other students in the district.

**Framework District Principle 1.01: Ensure that all principals understand and implement required and effective parent involvement practices at their schools.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
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<td>• Provide principals with information, support, and training about</td>
<td>• Join training and team building activities with principals and parent leaders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• the role of families in district and school administration and decision-making,</td>
<td>• Join an advisory group or council that is working to support student achievement.</td>
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<td>• required school plans for parent involvement,</td>
<td>• Attend your student’s parent-teacher conferences; communicate with your student’s teacher at other times besides during scheduled conferences.</td>
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<td>• involving families in developing parent involvement and education plans,</td>
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<td>• required parent community advisory committees.</td>
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<td>• Support schools to conduct at least two parent-teacher conferences per year.</td>
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**Framework District Principle 1.02: Establish family-friendly volunteer policies to recruit and organize parent help and support.**

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<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Provide teachers with written information on how to supervise parent volunteers in classrooms.</td>
<td>• Attend parent training to learn how to work with students in classrooms.</td>
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**Framework District Principle 1.03: Train parents to successfully participate in curricular and budgetary decision-making.**

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<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
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<td>• Provide training and resources to parents, especially those serving on advisory committees.</td>
<td>• Participate in training about the work of advisory committees.</td>
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<td>• If you are a more experienced parent, help to support and train new parents.</td>
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For more information on family and parent involvement opportunities at your school, contact:
**Framework** District Principle 1.04: Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development.

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<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Reach out to community agencies to provide information about education services and to encourage agencies to support education programs.</td>
<td>• Encourage community organizations and public agencies that you may know to become involved with the district or neighborhood school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide parent involvement activities for families with children across education programs and in public preschool.</td>
<td>• Start or join a group that brings together schools and community organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Work with parent resource centers (established under Title I, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and High Priority School Grants) to implement parent involvement activities.</td>
<td>• Visit your school and district parent resource centers for information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Help out in one of your school or district parent resource centers to support other families. Ask about family resource centers funded under Title I, special education, and High Priority Schools Grants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Framework** District Principle 1.05: Ensure staff and family access to training in effective school, family, and community partnerships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Provide information and support for parent orientation activities at schools.</td>
<td>• Attend parent orientation (such as “Back-to-School Night”) and read the student handbook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide information about the Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC).</td>
<td>• Visit a PIRC Web site for more information: <a href="http://www.calpirc.org">http://www.calpirc.org</a> <a href="http://www.bilingualeducation.org">http://www.bilingualeducation.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Framework** District Principle 1.06: Train staff, with the assistance of parents, in how to reach out to and work with parents as equal partners in the education of their children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Provide information, support, and training for staff on parent/family involvement.</td>
<td>• Answer and return surveys asking for input about staff training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use parent input to design and deliver staff training on parent involvement.</td>
<td>• Offer to help design and deliver staff training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Join the district parent involvement leadership team.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Framework** District Principle 1.07: Ensure that teachers and staff have knowledge and tools to help students with homework and other curriculum-related activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Provide guidelines for parents visiting classrooms to observe.</td>
<td>• Ask for a parent guide for visiting classrooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Survey parents to plan activities to help parents support child learning and development.</td>
<td>• Answer and return surveys asking for input about help you may need to support your student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Attend parent training on how to help with homework.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Providing Leadership for Family Engagement: What Can You Do?

The California Department of Education’s Family Engagement Framework (Framework) describes requirements for parent involvement in education and ways that districts may meet those requirements. Are you interested in becoming more involved in the district’s family engagement program? Here are some ideas about how you can support the learning and success of your own and other students in the district.

**Framework District Principle 2.01: Ensure that all schools have family/parent involvement programs.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Put a parent involvement policy in place that is approved by the school board, applies to all schools, and includes requirements for Title I schools in the district.</td>
<td>• Review the parent involvement policy; look for information about school-home communication, partnering, and decision-making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Start or join a parent involvement leadership team to help the district coordinate parent involvement programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Framework District Principle 2.02: Meet requirements of state and federal laws regarding family involvement.**

a. Ensure parent representation on district and school committees.
b. Establish district family involvement policies and programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Have parent members on the following committees:</td>
<td>• Attend training for parents who serve or would like to serve on advisory groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC)</td>
<td>• Join an advisory group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Parent Advisory Committee for early childhood programs</td>
<td>• Review the district’s parent involvement policy when it is sent to you each year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Community Advisory Committee for special education programs</td>
<td>• Help to review and update the parent involvement policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop with and send to parents a written parent involvement policy, outlining the district’s Title I plan.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Framework District Principle 2.03: Involve families in advisory bodies and training strategies.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Include parents, including DELAC, in decisions about planning and spending funds for parent/ family involvement activities.</td>
<td>• Provide public input at advisory committee meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Announce and hold regular meetings for input from parents of English learners.</td>
<td>• Become an advisory committee chair or co-chair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Join a district personnel development work group or committee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Framework** District Principle 3.01: Allocate resources and assign staff to implement the parent involvement plan.

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<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Spend at least 1 percent of Title 1 funds for parent involvement, unless 1 percent of the district allocation is $5,000 or less.</td>
<td>• Meet your district parent involvement staff person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide other support for parent involvement activities.</td>
<td>• Answer and return surveys asking for input about support for parent involvement activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


For more information on family and parent involvement opportunities at your school, contact:
Effective Family Engagement: What Can You Do?

The California Department of Education’s Family Engagement Framework (Framework) describes requirements for parent involvement in education and ways that districts may meet those requirements. Are you interested in becoming more involved in the district’s family engagement program? Here are some ideas about how you can support the learning and success of your own and other students in the district.

**Framework District Principle 4.01: Ensure all schools integrate parent involvement programs into the school’s Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA).**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ensure the SPSA has been reviewed by and received input from parent and community advisory committees, including the District English Learners Advisory Committee and parents of English learners.</td>
<td>• Review the SPSA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Framework District Principle 4.02: Provide oversight, support, and coordination of parent involvement activities among district schools and programs.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Coordinate parent involvement across programs, including Title I, Head Start/Early Head Start, Even Start, Reading First/Early Reading First, Parents as Teachers, Home Interaction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State preschools.</td>
<td>• Attend parent involvement events and activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Answer and return surveys asking for input about parent involvement activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Help plan parent involvement events and activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Framework District Principle 4.03: Document progress of each school’s implementation of its parent involvement program.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Collect information to review the parent involvement policy and to identify barriers to participation, especially for diverse parents.</td>
<td>• Complete and return evaluation forms and surveys about family involvement activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Survey families to plan more effective strategies and to revise parent involvement policies annually.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Framework District Principle 4.04: Assess every principal’s effectiveness in establishing and maintaining school, family, and community partnerships at their school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• May include family and community engagement in job descriptions, performance planning, and performance evaluation for principals.</td>
<td>• Talk with your student’s principal about parent involvement activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Offer to help plan or carry out parent involvement activities at your student’s school.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


For more information on family and parent involvement opportunities at your school, contact:
Engaging All Families: What Can You Do?

The California Department of Education’s Family Engagement Framework (Framework) describes requirements for parent involvement in education and ways that districts may meet those requirements. Are you interested in becoming more involved in the district’s family engagement program? Here are some ideas about how you can support the learning and success of your own and other students in the district.

**Framework District Principle 5.01: Ensure that critical parent information is readily available in accessible formats and languages spoken by families in the district.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Provide parent information to families in their home language and in a timely manner.</td>
<td>• Assist with translation and interpretation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ask for and use input from the District English Learner Advisory Committee on all written notifications.</td>
<td>• Help provide training and information to staff about working with families of English learners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Join the district work group on communications.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Framework District Principle 5.02: Ensure that parent representation on committees reflects the composition of the student body.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reach out to and support parents who are economically disadvantaged, have limited English, have disabilities, are migrants, or have children with disabilities to serve on committees.</td>
<td>• Join an advisory committee to represent your family and other families similar to your own.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Framework District Principle 5.03: Ensure that schools have a system in place with multiple strategies to facilitate two-way communication with parents and community members on a regular basis.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does the district do?</th>
<th>What can you do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Schedule parent-teacher conferences across the district.</td>
<td>• Attend your student’s parent-teacher conferences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ask for input about special education programs from parents of children receiving special education services.</td>
<td>• Attend advisory committee meetings, information fairs, and public forums.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Complete and return surveys and evaluations or attend parent input meetings to provide your input on special education programs, if your student receives special education services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


For more information on family and parent involvement opportunities at your school, contact:
Appendixes
## Appendix A. Matrix of Federal and State Parent Involvement Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Programs</th>
<th>Involvement</th>
<th>Governance &amp; Administration</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Standards, Assessment, &amp; Accountability</th>
<th>Staffing and Professional Development</th>
<th>Opportunity and Equal Educational Access</th>
<th>Teaching and Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Instructional Programs</td>
<td>27 EC 49091.10</td>
<td>28 EC 51101.1(b)</td>
<td>28 EC 51101.1(c)</td>
<td>28 EC 51101.1(a)</td>
<td>28 EC 51101.1(e)</td>
<td>28 EC 51101.1(a)</td>
<td>28 EC 51101.1(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Categorical Programs</td>
<td>5 CCR 3932</td>
<td>EC 52852</td>
<td>5 CCR 3932</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian Education</td>
<td>20 USC 7424(c)(3)(C)</td>
<td>20 USC 7424(c)(4)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Before and After School Programs</td>
<td>EC 8422(b)</td>
<td>EC 8422.5(b)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CalSAFE</td>
<td>EC 8202</td>
<td>EC 8203</td>
<td>5 CCR 18277</td>
<td>5 CCR 18280</td>
<td>EC 8202(f), 5 CCR 18275(b), 5 CCR 18277</td>
<td>EC 8202(i), 5 CCR 18275(b), 5 CCR 18277</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Development</td>
<td>EC 8203(d)</td>
<td>EC 8202(e)</td>
<td>EC 8203(d)</td>
<td>EC 8203(c), (g), and (h)</td>
<td>EC 8203(c), (g), and (h)</td>
<td>EC 8203(c), (g), and (h)</td>
<td>5 CCR 18275(b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care</td>
<td>EC 8203(d)</td>
<td>EC 8202(e)</td>
<td>EC 8203(d)</td>
<td>EC 8203(c), (g), and (h)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-K Family Care</td>
<td>EC 8203(d)</td>
<td>EC 8202(e)</td>
<td>EC 8203(d)</td>
<td>EC 8203(c), (g), and (h)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Assistance Intervention Team (DAIT)</td>
<td>DAIT D.3. &amp; D.4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Equity</td>
<td>EC 251(b)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Learners (Title III)- Limited-English Proficient and Immigrant</td>
<td>20 USC 6312</td>
<td>20 USC 6318</td>
<td>20 USC 7012</td>
<td>20 USC 7012</td>
<td>20 USC 7012</td>
<td>20 USC 7012</td>
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</table>

EC stands for Education Code.  
**CCR stands for California Code of Regulations.**  
***USC stands for United States Code.**  

*Note: Citations in bold type are found in the law but are not noted on Categorical Program Monitoring Instruments.*
## Categorical Program Monitoring Dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Programs</th>
<th>Involvement</th>
<th>Governance &amp; Administration</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Standards, Assessment, &amp; Accountability</th>
<th>Staffing and Professional Development</th>
<th>Opportunity and Equal Educational Access</th>
<th>Teaching and Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)</td>
<td>5 CCR 3831(j)(8) EC 52205(f)</td>
<td>5 CCR 3831(j) EC 52205(f)</td>
<td>EC 52205(f)</td>
<td>5 CCR 3831(j) EC 52205(f)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS Education</td>
<td>EC 51033(b)(6) EC 51938(a)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless Education (Title X, Part C)</td>
<td>42 USC 11432(g)(6)(A)(iv) 20 USC 6318(e)(5) 42 USC 11432(g)(3)(E) EC 48985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving Teacher Quality (Title II, Part A)</td>
<td>20 USC 6622(b)(7)</td>
<td>20 USC 6311(h)(6)(A) 20 USC 6622(b)(9)(C) 20 USC 6623(a)(3)(B)(v)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Empowerment Centers</td>
<td>EC 56341 EC 56342.5 EC 56441.2</td>
<td>EC 56408(b)</td>
<td>EC 56408(b) &amp; (c)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>EC 56341</td>
<td>EC 56195.9</td>
<td>EC 56195.9</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrant Education</td>
<td>20 USC 6394(c)(3) EC 11502 EC 11504 EC 54444.4</td>
<td>20 USC 6318(e)(5) EC 48985 EC 54444.4(b)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk (Title I, Part D)</td>
<td>20 USC 6455(8) EC 48985 EC 52852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading First (Title I, Part B)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe &amp; Drug Free (Title IV, Part A)</td>
<td>20 USC 7114(c)(1)(A) 20 USC 7114(c)(2) 20 USC 7115(a)(1)(E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B)</td>
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**Note:** Citations in **bold type** are found in the law but are not noted on CPM Instruments.
Appendix B. Linking Parent Involvement to Student Achievement: A Review of Recent Literature

Introduction of Findings

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001 (ESEA) stressed shared accountability between schools and parents for high student achievement; both state and local educational agencies wrestle with effective planning, implementation, and evaluation of parent involvement programs. In 2001, Jordan et al. wrote in Emerging Issues in School, Family, and Community Connections, “What practitioners and policymakers really want is a single breakthrough study that resoundingly and unequivocally provides both concrete evidence about the impact of family and community connections with schools and a recipe to make it happen.” While there is as yet no “single breakthrough study,” a current body of evidence links student achievement to specific parent involvement activities. The following findings of this literature review provide information useful in making decisions and recommendations for parent involvement program planning:

- Activities that support learning at home (engaging parents directly with their students) and school/home communication activities (engaging parents directly with school personnel) hold the most significant promise for supporting student achievement.
  - Even the most basic, one-way communications (regular progress reports) are associated with increased student achievement.
- For students from minority groups experiencing a variety of challenges, learning at home and school/home communication activities show special promise.
- Building on parent strengths by providing parent training and education enhances the effectiveness of learning at home and school/home communication.
- Strategies utilizing parents to reinforce classroom instruction, either in the home or in the classroom, are successful when they are content specific and supported by explicit parent education and training.
- Parent involvement activities often have a “ripple effect,” initiating other beneficial activities or conditions and building parent and student capacity.

Purpose of the Literature Review

In California, the U.S. Department of Education has charged the California Comprehensive Center (CA CC) at WestEd with the mission to build state capacity to implement fully the federal ESEA, improve student achievement, and close the achievement gap. Embracing the federal emphasis on parent involvement, the CA CC assists the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop structures, commitment, and tools to increase meaningful parent involvement. One such tool is the Family Engagement Framework, which describes expectations and implementation strategies for parent involvement activities across state education programs. The Framework provides guidance to districts, county offices of education, schools, and parents as they plan, implement, and evaluate strategies that effectively involve families to support student achievement. The Framework describes implementation activities that federal and state regulations require, parent involvement experts recommend, and research support.

To incorporate evidence-based activities into the Framework, CA CC staff first referenced existing research in policy and resource documents. Examination of these reference lists revealed literature that was not recent, relevant, or methodologically rigorous. Much of the research was conducted prior to 2001 and, therefore, prior to implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Research in parent involvement at that time was in early stages of development (Jordan et al., 2001; Epstein, 2008), typically examining characteristics of involved parents and frequency and types of parent involvement but not yet linking to specific models or to student outcomes. Measures used to assess involvement, effectiveness, and outcomes were often highly subjective; descriptions of parent involvement activities often included an assortment of activities under one heading and were, therefore, unclear. CA CC staff determined that it was advisable to conduct a focused review of recent literature to identify a current body of evidence linking specific parent involvement activities to student achievement.

In addition to informing the development of the Family Engagement Framework, this literature review serves as a resource to administrators and teachers seeking to identify, select, and support effective and promising practices in parent involvement. The Annotated List of Selected Articles Linking Parent Involvement to Student Achievement (Appendix B.1) describes articles that met specific methodological criteria and found a statistically significant, positive relationship between parent involvement activities and student achievement. Additionally, the review provides criteria for the consideration of research in parent involvement and highlights the need for educators to help build the body of research by engaging in research and evaluation of the activities and programs they are implementing.
Defining “Parent Involvement” and Establishing Criteria for Examining Evidence

The first step in conducting the literature review was to clarify the definitions of “parent involvement” and “student achievement” that would guide the search and review. After reviewing several definitions and descriptions of parent involvement appearing in federal and state policy, CA CC staff constructed this working definition of parent involvement:

Parent involvement is the exchange of information (communication), purposeful interaction, and meaningful participation between parents and schools to support student learning and achievement (CA CC, 2008).

It was determined that both parent involvement and student achievement, for the purpose of this review, must be measurable or observable. Graduation rates, report card grades, test scores, and scores on validated teacher rating scales would all be indicators of student achievement. Indicators of parent involvement are more challenging to determine. Data on parent involvement are expressed in this literature review primarily through survey responses and parent and teacher reports. Reviewers specifically looked for practical descriptions of observable parent involvement activities (e.g., provided help with homework, attended parent-teacher meetings, received reports from the school, participated in a school site council meeting).

To ensure that articles relevant to practice and written under a rigorous standard of research were identified, CA CC staff only examined peer-reviewed articles published within the last nine years (2001–2010). Keywords were used in various combinations to search for articles in the ProQuest and ERIC databases. Initially, 79 articles were identified for further review.

A review matrix was constructed to track findings as they emerged and to ground the review within a particular theoretical framework. The matrix headings are derived from the parent involvement types described by Joyce Epstein (2002): parenting (building on parent strengths), communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community. These types have been incorporated into policy and guidance in California and are widely referenced in research literature. The matrix also contains fields for the number of subjects involved in the study, the student or family characteristics, and the measures for student outcomes.

Articles that did not meet all of the following criteria were eliminated from the review:

- Clear identification of parent involvement strategies
- Valid isolation of parent involvement strategies as variables
- Control of or attention to family or child characteristics (demographics) that may account for statistically significant results
- Use of valid measures for parent involvement activities
- Use of valid measures for student achievement
- Presence of educationally significant outcomes for students
- Presence of statistically significant outcomes for students
- Presence of a statistically significant relationship among variables

Nineteen articles emerged as providing compelling evidence of a link between parent involvement activities and student achievement. These 19 articles met the methodological criteria and found a statistically significant, positive relationship between specific parent involvement activities and student achievement. The articles, included in the Annotated List of Selected Articles, are discussed below. Sixteen articles were “borderline” because they either reported positive relationships between parent involvement activities and student achievement but did not clearly meet the methodological criteria or, in one case, they met the methodological criteria but the relationships among variables were not positive. The borderline articles were subjected to further review by two reviewers and rated in terms of the methodological standards. The ratings were compared, and 7 of the 16 borderline articles, rated similarly by both reviewers, were identified to include in the List of Selected Articles.

Parent Involvement Activities Associated with Student Achievement

Twenty-six articles offer compelling evidence linking identifiable parent involvement activities to measurable student achievement. The articles include experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental research; statistical analyses of large bodies of longitudinal data, such as the National Education Longitudinal Study; and meta-analyses of previous studies. Table 1 categorizes the findings of the articles by parent involvement activity area. Promising parent involvement activity areas are most frequently associated with student achievement. These activities, shown in Table 1, include activities that directly engage parents with their individual students (learning at home) and with school personnel (school/home communication).

The richness and complexity that characterize parent involvement in education preclude the drawing of strict cause-effect conclusions. An infinite variety of demographic variables impact the experiences of children and families. Parent involvement activities are practically never conducted in isolation from each other or to the exclusion of other educational or child-rearing activities. Additionally, the nature (positive/negative) and intent (supportive/punitive) of the implementation of a specific parent involvement activity affect its outcome. Results of the literature review are therefore discussed in terms of association and not causality. The remainder of this discussion will examine the promising parent involvement activity areas, the relationships among activity areas, and exceptions within activity areas.
Learning at Home

Learning at home, the activity area most often positively associated with student achievement, includes activities such as parent-child discussions about school, mindful organization of space in the home to support learning, and the use of interactive homework (i.e., homework that requires parents and students to discuss and work together on a learning activity or assignment). Sheldon and Epstein (2005) and Xu (2006) found that the use of activity or information packets sent home to parents by teachers was associated with gains in math scores. Four of the 12 studies examining learning at home activities also considered some kind of parent preparation activities and found them to be significantly associated with increased student achievement as well (Bailey, 2006; Bradshaw, 2009; Ingram, 2007; Redding, 2004). While parent training was not found to be necessary to support the relationship between learning activities in the home and increased student achievement, Bailey, in one of the few controlled studies presented, found that providing parents information and training to use that information to support learning at home increased student achievement levels to a greater degree. Bradshaw, in another controlled study, found that parent workshops focusing on support of academics and behavior management techniques, although not intensive or systematically supported, resulted in sustained, positive outcomes.

Some fairly straightforward, basic parent involvement activities seem to have a ripple effect, initiating other beneficial activities or conditions. For instance, Dearing (2006) found that parent involvement is positively associated with better performance, especially for students with less educated mothers. This finding contradicts expectations that less educated parents have less capacity to be successfully involved in education. It would seem that parent involvement activities build parent capacity even when they are not explicitly designed to do so.

Similarly, Cancio (2004), in a very small study of an approach to involving parents in homework, highlighted that doing so also seems to increase the students’ capacity to complete the homework. It is unclear whether it is parents’ involvement or the students’ increased awareness of accountability that improves homework completion and overall achievement; however, the positive results are the same.

For students traditionally considered to be “at risk” (low-income, African American, and urban students, specifically), the studies indicated that learning-at-home activities were especially promising. Cox (2005) examined 18 studies focusing primarily on low-income, African American student populations and found that learning at home activities, in tandem with school/home communication, were associated with improved work quality, improved student behavior, higher attendance rates, better study skills, and higher student academic achievement. Fantuzzo (2004) found that “home-based” parent involvement, including reading at home, setting aside homework space, and discussing school, most strongly correlated to higher levels of classroom competency and lower levels of behavior problems in children. Ingram (2007), approaching the examination from a whole-school perspective, looked for commonalities among consistently high-achieving schools with at-risk, low-income populations and found that parents in those schools were more likely to engage in learning-at-home activities. Gutman (2000) and Jeynes (2007, 2005a) indicated that specific, targeted parent behaviors implemented in a supportive manner with positive expectations for student success are associated with student achievement.

Hong (2005), Lee (2006), and Yan (2005), each examining differences in parent involvement among various ethnic groups, found that families across ethnic groups reported that they were actively involved in education and that parent-child communication and high parent expectations were associated with high student achievement. However, there were exceptions within the results. Lee, for instance, found student achievement to be negatively associated with parent-child communication for Hispanic/Latino families. Similarly, student achievement was found to be negatively associated with homework help for European American families.

Lee stated that it was hardly likely that talking with children about school or helping with homework caused lower achievement. Most likely, parents from these respective groups tended to engage more in a particular parent involvement activity when their students were experiencing academic struggles. Lee’s findings acknowledged the common values of parents and schools to support learning, highlighted some cultural differences in how and when parents choose to be involved in their children’s education, and recommended that schools offer a variety of ways for parents to be involved at home and at school.

School/Home Communication

School/home communication, the activity area with the second highest frequency of association with student achievement, includes opportunities for one-way and two-way exchanges of information as well as face-to-face meetings between family members and school personnel. Sirvani (2007), in a very focused, controlled study, examined the effectiveness of a simple one-way communication strategy: regular math progress reports. Sirvani suggested that the apparent success of that strategy may be attributed to the fact that it has a ripple effect in the home, increases parent awareness of the need for more attention, or increases student efforts in response to increased parent awareness. McBride (2005) found “physical” (on-site) involvement by mothers and face-to-face meetings between parents and school personnel to be most highly associated with high student achievement. In particular, fathers were more likely to participate in meetings with school personnel and that activity was associated with higher student achievement. Crosnoe (2009), in a study that focused specifically on groups of children targeted under ESEA (i.e., English learners and children from economically disadvantaged areas), examined the quantity of and policies behind two-way school-home contact. The study...
### Table 1. Parent Involvement Activities Associated with Student Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parent Involvement Activity Area</th>
<th>Specific Parent Involvement Strategies Found to Be Associated with Student Achievement</th>
<th>Articles Presenting Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning at home</td>
<td>Interactive homework</td>
<td>Bailey, 2006; Sheldon &amp; Epstein, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reinforcement of learning or instructional strategies in the home</td>
<td>Bradshaw, 2009; Cox, 2005; Fan, 2010; Hill, 2009; Ingram, 2007; Sheldon &amp; Epstein, 2005; Xu, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Providing space at home for educational activities</td>
<td>Cancio, 2004; Fantuzzo, 2004; Ingram, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homework help</td>
<td>Gutman, 2000; Ingram, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Explicit, research-based homework policies</td>
<td>Redding, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School/home communication</td>
<td>Parents visit school or attend school event</td>
<td>Dearing, 2006; Jeynes, 2005b; Lee, 2006; Redding, 2004; Xu, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One-way, school-to-home communication</td>
<td>Bradshaw, 2009; Cox, 2005; Fan, 2010; Sirvani, 2007; Xu, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two-way communication exchange</td>
<td>Cox, 2005; Crosnoe, 2009; Fan, 2010; Gutman, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent-teacher meetings</td>
<td>Gutman, 2000; McBride, 2005; Redding, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Home visits by teachers</td>
<td>Redding, 2004; Xu, 2006</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family resource library</td>
<td>Redding, 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building on parent strengths</td>
<td>Parent training to support learning at home</td>
<td>Bailey, 2006; Bradshaw, 2009; Cancio, 2004; Ingram, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supportive and helpful parenting approach</td>
<td>Jeynes, 2007, 2005a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent education on reading and study habits</td>
<td>Redding, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering</td>
<td>General volunteering in the classroom or on field trips</td>
<td>Fan, 2010; Dearing, 2006; Lee, 2006; McBride, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parents as advisers or aides in the classroom</td>
<td>Kyriakides, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision making</td>
<td>Parent participation in parent-teacher organizations</td>
<td>Dearing, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent involvement in school committees</td>
<td>Gordon, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent involvement in developing policies and compacts</td>
<td>Redding, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>Teacher training to involve parents</td>
<td>Bailey, 2006; Bradshaw, 2009</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>High parent expectation for student achievement</td>
<td>Fan, 2010; Hong, 2005; Jeynes, 2007, 2005a; Lee, 2006; Levpuscek, 2009; Yan, 2005</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Explicit parent partnership policy</td>
<td>Kyriakides, 2005</td>
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<td>Father involvement</td>
<td>McBride, 2005</td>
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<td>Use of a specific program (Solid Foundations)</td>
<td>Redding, 2004</td>
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<td></td>
<td>District, school, teacher perception, or support of parent involvement</td>
<td>Gordon, 2009; Xu, 2006</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Supportive parent-child relationship</td>
<td>Yan, 2005</td>
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concluded that building lines of communication among parents and school personnel may promote continuity during transition from middle school to high school and may reduce disparities related to language issues. Fan (2010) examined the content of school-parent contacts by isolating communications about problems and communications about "benign" issues and found that communications about problems had a negative impact on student motivational outcomes.

In more than half the articles examining school/home communication, both this activity area and learning at home activities were examined and found to be positively associated with student achievement (Bradshaw, 2009; Cox, 2005; Gutman, 2000; Jeynes, 2005b; Redding, 2004; Xu, 2006). Dearing (2006), Lee (2006), and McBride (2005) looked at communication and at volunteer activities as well and found both to be associated with student achievement levels. None of these researchers sought specifically to examine the interplay among communication strategies, homework, supporting learning at home, and volunteering; however, considered altogether, the associations imply support for strong school-home partnerships. As Funkhouser and Gonzales (1997) contended:

Schools that are most successful in engaging parents and other family members in support of their children’s learning look beyond traditional definitions of parent involvement—participating in a parent-teacher organization or signing quarterly report cards—to a broader conception of parents as full partners in the education of their children. Rather than striving only to increase parent participation in school-based activities, successful schools seek to support families in their activities outside of school that can encourage their children’s learning. Schools that have developed successful partnerships with parents view student achievement as a shared responsibility, and all stakeholders—including parents, administrators, teachers, and community leaders—play important roles in supporting children’s learning.

Other Parent Involvement Activity Areas

Funkhouser and Gonzales also stated that, “If families are to work with schools as partners in the education of their children, schools must provide them with the opportunities and support they need to become involved.” The literature reviewed found that parent involvement activities building on parent strengths showed promise for supporting student achievement. Bailey (2006), Bradshaw (2009), Cancio (2004), and Kyriakides (2005) included explicit, focused parent training in the parent involvement activities being implemented in their individual studies. Bailey and Cancio found increased parent capacity to be supportive of homework strategies. Kyriakides found parent and teacher training and on-going communication increased the effectiveness of volunteering activities. Studies by Ingram (2007) and Redding (2004) linked increased student achievement to parent education efforts specific to learning at home activities. Jeynes’ meta-analyses (2007, 2005a) implied that parent training intended to instill or increase supportive and helpful parenting approaches showed promise for increasing student achievement.

Of the six studies that examined activities in the volunteering area, Kyriakides (2005) presented the most thorough description of the parents’ roles, responsibilities, and preparation activities, including the development of a parent partnership policy. While the schools involved in this study were in Greece, the principles and practices seem similar enough to generalize to American schools. The other studies that found a significant association between volunteering activities and student achievement (Dearing, 2006; Lee, 2006; McBride, 2005) were not explicit in describing activities, referring to “visiting” and “observing... in the classroom or on field trips.” All of the studies that associated volunteering activities with student achievement also associated home/school communication activities with student achievement. Again, this finding implies support for strong school-home partnerships in the effective implementation of parent involvement activities.

Two parent involvement activity areas are underrepresented in the literature: decision making and collaboration with the community. These areas are especially challenging in terms of measuring and making direct links to student achievement; only three of the reviewed studies even attempted to include them. In two of the three studies (Dearing, 2006; Redding, 2004), data for decision-making involvement activities were not separated from other parent involvement activities, making valid attribution of effectiveness a challenge. Dearing included parent-teacher organization attendance as one of eight “yes/no” items within the family involvement variable being examined, so there was no way to determine the true impact of that specific parent involvement activity, even though family involvement, overall, had a positive association with student achievement. Similarly, Redding examined parent involvement in the development and implementation of policies through the Solid Foundation program, but did not present separate data or analyses for activities within the overall program. In the third study, Sheldon and Epstein (2005) explained why decision making and collaborating with community activities were not analyzed in their study of the impact of parent involvement on achievement in mathematics:

Schools did not report using any Type 5 decision-making involvement activities to improve students’ mathematics skills, and too few schools using Type 6 practices, collaborating with the community activities, provided 2 years of achievement test scores. As a result, we investigated only the relationships between the implementation of four types of involvement practices and changes in students’ performance on standardized tests.
Miscellaneous Activities: Activity Areas
Outside the Model

Finally, five of the studies found a significant relationship between parents’ educational expectations and student achievement (Hill, 2009; Hong, 2005; Jeynes, 2007 & 2005a; Lee, 2006; Yan, 2005). Epstein (2008) described the role of parents’ educational expectations as complicated and misunderstood. There is a “longitudinal loop where expectations are driven by students’ achievement (prior and new) and by some parents’ knowledge of schools and education.” Four of the studies involved quantitative analyses of extremely large banks of data. None of the five studies were experimental, allowing for manipulation of any of the variables and tracking of changes over time. So, while the association was strong, the direction of the relationship was unclear: Do students have higher achievement because parents have high expectations? Or do parents have high expectations because their students are high achievers?

Two of the researchers, Jeynes (2007, 2005a) and Yan (2005), specifically placed the parents’ expectations within the context of “supportive” and “helpful” parenting approaches and parent-child relationships, implying that high expectations of a less supportive nature might be less promising. Levpuscek (2009) documented a strong association between negative communications of educational aspiration, or “parental pressure,” and adolescent student efficacy and achievement in math; in other words, parent involvement that is perceived as pressure by adolescents may have a negative impact on adolescents’ academic confidence and performance. And Lee (2006) found student achievement to be negatively associated with parent expectations for children from socio-economically disadvantaged families. As stated earlier concerning Lee’s findings around cultural differences in parent involvement activities, it is hardly likely that holding high educational aspirations for a student would cause lower achievement. It is more likely that other human and social challenges presented by poverty must be addressed for poorer families to be more effectively involved in education and to support student achievement.

Recommendations for Promising Practices in Parent Involvement Activities

Early research, examining whether parents are involved and how that relates to their children, shows that “parents who are most involved have the highest of most of things, including higher achieving students…When parents are involved, attentive, and have high aspirations, their children tend to be the ones that do better” (Epstein, 2008). The research articles included in this review find positive relationships between specific parent involvement activities and student achievement, but more carefully designed experimental research is necessary to draw firm conclusions about causal relationships. Second-generation studies are now emerging; these studies are longitudinal and have a variable (a specific program, for instance) that is controlled or implemented over time. Results of this research will identify programs and practices that most effectively influence what parents are doing and that translate to improved outcomes for students.

The findings of this literature review provide information useful in making some recommendations about promising practices:

• Increase opportunities and skills for parents to engage directly with their students about school and learning at home.
• Increase opportunities and skills for school personnel to engage parents directly through regular one-way and two-way communication and parent-teacher conferences.
• Increase opportunities and skills for parents to interact directly with school personnel.
• Recognize and accommodate challenges experienced by various minority groups in the design and implementation of learning at home and school/home communication activities, as these activity areas show special promise for supporting achievement for these groups.
• Provide parent and teacher training and education to enhance the effectiveness of learning at home and school/home communication activities.
• Provide parent training and education in instructional strategies and specific content areas to utilize parents to reinforce classroom instruction, either in the home or in the classroom.
Appendix B.1. Annotated List of Selected Articles Linking Parent Involvement to Student Achievement


This report examined the effect of parent training on parent-child interactions during the completion of interactive homework assignments (IHA), specifically in second grade reading instruction. Researchers engaged 84 at-risk students with low reading scores and their parents. Parents received information and/or training on IHA, designed to increase parent involvement and student achievement. The results indicated that students whose parents received information, but no training, on IHA increased their time spent on homework and their level of achievement; students whose parents received information and training showed greater levels of achievement. Researchers concluded that specific parent training during a brief period of time, approximately four weeks, had the potential for improving academic performance for academically at-risk students.


This randomized, controlled study compared the long-term impact of two first-grade preventive interventions: a classroom-centered intervention, combining the use of the Good Behavior Game with enhanced academic curriculum and teacher training and support; and the Family-School Partnership, promoting parent involvement in educational activities and supporting parents’ behavior management strategies. The participants included 678 urban, primarily African American children. The intervention occurred in first grade; outcomes for achievement, graduation, and postsecondary education were examined for participants through age 19. Both intervention programs showed improvements in student outcomes compared to the control group. The Family-School Partnership intervention showed less significant outcomes than the classroom-centered intervention. However, the authors acknowledged that the intensity of implementation of the interventions was not equivalent; the classroom-centered intervention was much more intensive in both the training of the interveners and the time students were exposed to the intervention.


This study investigated the feasibility of teaching parents of students with emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD) to establish and maintain a homework completion program based on student self-monitoring. Six middle school students with EBD and their parents participated in the study; parents received training and implemented the program’s strategies. Parent participation in the homework program was investigated to determine the effect on students’ rate of homework completion and accuracy, academic achievement, and perceived homework problem ratings. Researchers reported that homework completion and homework accuracy increased for all students. In addition, mathematics achievement increased and perceived homework problem ratings diminished. Independent variables (homework monitoring, self-monitoring, increased homework completion) were not examined separately; so, while the program definitely resulted in positive outcomes, it was not possible to attribute the positive outcomes to any one variable.


The author analyzed 18 empirical studies of home-school collaboration interventions that also measured a school-based outcome. Guidelines outlined by the American Psychological Association’s Division 16 Task Force on Evidence-Based Interventions in School Psychology were used to code and evaluate the studies. The most effective interventions were those where parents and school personnel worked together to implement interventions utilizing a two-way exchange of information (e.g., parent-teacher action research teams) and those involving communication between school and home (e.g., daily report cards, school-to-home notes). Specifically, these strategies were linked to improved work quality, academic achievement, behavior, attendance, study skills, and attention. The analysis includes a discussion of methodological strengths and limitations of home-school collaboration studies, as well as recommendations for future research.


This research examined the link between patterns of home-school communications and initial math course-level placement after transition to high school. Data from the National Adolescents Education Longitudinal Study were utilized to look specifically at groups of students targeted by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (English learners and economically disadvantaged). Examination of the quantity and policies of school-home contact and math level placement for nearly 18,000 students concluded that building lines of communication among parents and school personnel was associated with higher level placement and may promote continuity during transition from middle school to high school and reduce disparities related to language issues. Content of school-home contact could not be accessed for this study.


This study examined longitudinal data from kindergarten to fifth grade on parent involvement in school and children’s literacy performance. It included data collected from 281 ethnically diverse, low-income families. Overall, parent involvement did not show statistically significant influence; but, for children with mothers with lower income levels, higher parent involvement led to higher literacy levels. Additionally, within families, increased parent involvement predicted improved child literacy. However, data for a range of parent-reported parent involvement activities were averaged into broad categories so the influence of individual activities could be determined. Researchers concluded that these results supported arguments that parent involvement in school should be a central aim of practice and policy solutions to the achievement gap between lower and higher income children.

This study examined distinct parent involvement activities in relationship to student characteristics that lead to academic achievement. Researchers accessed data for over 15,000 students from the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002. Communications about problems and communications about “benign” issues were isolated in the study, allowing for analysis of content of school-parent contacts. Communications about problems were negatively associated with motivational outcomes; parent communications providing advice to students were positively associated with motivational outcomes. The authors cautioned that association does not necessarily mean causality.


This article presented the results of a study of parent involvement and end-of-the-year outcomes for 144 urban children participating in Head Start. Home-based parent involvement activities were found to be most strongly correlated to classroom competencies, including children’s motivation to learn, attention, task persistence, receptive vocabulary skills, and low conduct problems. School-based parent involvement and home-school conferencing also showed positive influence, but significantly less so than home-based parent involvement.


This study examined data from principal and teacher surveys from another study, Learning from Leadership, in relationship to state mathematics achievement data. Specifically, authors looked at the influence of district and principal leadership on parent and community involvement, the inclusion of parents and community members on school site councils, and openness to community and parent involvement in schools. In schools where teachers perceived greater involvement by parents and where teachers indicated there is shared leadership (including parents and community members), student achievement was higher. The authors cautioned that the outcomes were related but not causal.


Researchers surveyed African American parents about the management of their child’s education within the home, school, and community and examined the effect of their management on a child’s academic achievement. Findings indicated that parents of both high- and low-achieving students engaged in parent involvement but the nature of the involvement was different. Researchers described specific strategies that appeared to be most supportive, including help with homework, maintaining contact with school to ensure progress, and engaging in encouraging conversations with students. They cautioned that these strategies were related but not necessarily causal.


This meta-analysis of 50 studies examined home-based parent involvement, school-based parent involvement, and academic socialization (parent expectations, aspirations for their children, valuing of education) in relationship to student achievement. Overall, the authors found a positive relationship between general parent involvement and student achievement. Of home-based involvement activities, homework help was negatively associated with achievement; providing educationally enriching activities at home was positively associated with achievement. Authors cautioned that relationships cannot be defined as causal.


This study, using data from the National Education Longitudinal Survey, included consideration of multidimensional, longitudinal, mediational, and ethnic factors. Results indicated significant ethnic differences in the direct effects of parent involvement on academic achievement. Across ethnic groups, greater parent involvement, in terms of communication and educational aspirations for children, was associated with enhanced student educational aspirations and beliefs that success or failure resulted primarily from their own behavior and actions.


This study presented survey data from 220 parents whose children attended three Chicago public elementary schools, serving largely minority, low-income populations and scoring in the top third of the Illinois State Achievement Tests. Using Epstein’s framework of parent involvement, researchers found that parents of children in high-achieving schools were more likely to participate in two of Epstein’s types of parent involvement: parenting and learning at home. Results suggested that schools struggling with unsatisfactory student achievement may benefit from focusing parent involvement efforts on building parenting capacity and encouraging learning-at-home activities.


This meta-analysis of 41 studies examined the relationship between parent involvement and the academic achievement of urban elementary school children. Analyses of overall parent involvement and of specific involvement strategies indicated a significant, positive relationship with academic achievement. This relationship applied to white and minority children and also to boys and girls. Parent expectations, parent style, and parent-child communication were the specific parent involvement activities with the highest associations with academic achievement. Additionally, Jeynes found associations with student outcomes for general parent involvement activities as well as for parent involvement programs.

Using the 1992 National Education Longitudinal Study data set, this study examined family structure and three aspects of parent involvement in relationship to academic achievement. Family structure and two of the three aspects of parent involvement were associated with higher adolescent academic achievement, with family structure being the single greatest predictor of academic achievement. Parents discussing school issues and attending school functions also had a positive association with adolescent academic achievement.


This meta-analysis of 52 studies is somewhat repetitive of Jeynes’ earlier works, applying the same processes in examining the influence of parent involvement on the educational outcomes of urban secondary school children. Measures of educational outcomes included an overall measure of combined components of academic achievement, grades, standardized tests, teacher rating scales, and indices of academic attitudes and behaviors. Results of statistical analyses indicated that parent involvement, overall, had significant effects for the academic variables under study and applied for both white and minority children.


The study examined the effects of a policy on partnerships, implemented at an elementary school in Cyprus, that encouraged parents to work with their children in school. Parents and teachers were trained and engaged in ongoing communication around volunteering in classrooms. In comparison to students at a control school, students at the experimental school showed higher attainment in each core subject, regardless of socioeconomic background. Parents at the experimental school reported improved teacher communication as well as improved student behavior at home.


This study of 415 third through fifth graders who completed the Elementary School Success Profile examined the level and impact of five types of parent involvement on elementary school children’s academic achievement and considered race/ethnicity, poverty, and parent educational attainment. Parents with different demographic characteristics engaged in different types of involvement, and the types of involvement exhibited by parents from dominant groups had the strongest association with achievement. Visiting the school and parent expectations had high correlation to academic achievement, overall. Talking about the school and providing help with homework were negatively related to academic achievement for some ethnic groups. Separate parent involvement activities were grouped to provide composite scores, so the effects of individual activities were difficult to identify.


This study of 365 eighth-grade students in Slovenia documented a strong association between negative parent communications (i.e., “pressure”) on student self-efficacy and achievement. More positive associations were found between parent academic support and student self-efficacy and achievement.


The study examined the relationship between school-, neighborhood-, and family-level resources and children’s academic achievement, giving special attention to the role of father involvement in children’s learning. Data from 1,334 families with children between the ages of five and twelve were drawn from the 1997 Child Development Supplement of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and analyzed. Findings associated the following relationships with student achievement: physical involvement at school by mothers, meetings with teachers or administrator by mothers and fathers, and direct involvement of fathers in their children’s education.


This paper, presented at the annual convention of the American Educational Research Association, examined the effectiveness of a specific parent involvement program, Solid Foundations, implemented in 129 high-poverty schools in Illinois. The program was described very broadly, and specific parent involvement activities were not separated out for analysis. However, analysis of the Illinois Standards Assessment Test scores for over 42,000 children attending the Solid Foundation schools in comparison to scores of students in a control set of matched schools in the state showed a significant difference in student achievement in favor of the schools implementing the parent involvement program.


This article presented the findings of a five-year longitudinal study of 168 middle- and upper-middle-class children, examining the interplay of early home literacy experiences, receptive language, emergent literacy skills, and reading achievement. Evidence of the foundational nature of early parent involvement in learning at home was discussed.

Longitudinal data, including standardized mathematics test scores and report card grades from elementary and secondary schools, were examined for links between specific family and community involvement activities and student achievement in mathematics. Analyses indicated that parent involvement to support their children’s mathematics learning at home was associated with higher percentages of students who scored at or above proficiency on standardized mathematics achievement tests. The authors suggested that “subject-specific practices of school, family, and community partnerships” may improve students’ mathematics skills and achievement.


This randomized, controlled study established a clear relationship between one specific parent involvement strategy, one-way communication, and students’ mathematics achievement. Parents of the students in the experimental group received teacher communications twice a week, reporting homework scores and test grades; parents in the control group did not. Lower achieving students in the experimental group significantly outperformed similar students in the control group. The researcher suggested that the one-way communication may have increased parent involvement at home or student efforts on homework and in class, knowing that parents were receiving extra information.


This study examined the teacher-parent partnership and, specifically, the teacher’s role in establishing and maintaining a good teacher-parent relationship. Findings suggested that teacher-parent interaction was positively related to student performance in mathematics; findings for student performance in reading were not so compelling. Different effects were shown for private and public schools.


This study using longitudinal data from the 1998 National Education Longitudinal Study, examined the relationships of three dimensions of parent involvement (family obligations, family norms, and parent information networks) to twelfth-grade students’ mathematics achievement and ways in which these relationships varied across four racial and ethnic groups (i.e., Caucasians, African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians). Thirty-nine parent involvement variables were collapsed into nine composites and then analyzed in relationship to twelfth graders’ mathematics scores. Findings indicated that, regardless of racial or ethnic background, parents’ educational expectations had the most consistent positive effect on twelfth graders’ mathematics achievement. Parent involvement (specifically two-way communication and attending school functions) was an indicator for mathematics achievement for Caucasian students. Close parent-teenager relationships positively influenced the seniors’ mathematics outcome in most minority families, with the exception of Hispanic families. Authors presented an interesting discussion related to mentoring and considerations for students in minority culture groups.
References


