

The Learning Bar

Parent & Caregiver Survey Success Strategies

Participation

Parental involvement entails parent engagement in a child's educational journey (Jeynes, 2007). Notable aspects of parental involvement include parent participation at school, such as volunteer opportunities or attending social functions at school, or communication with their child's teacher(s) (e.g., parent-teacher meetings). Given the positive association between parental involvement and student academic achievement, it is essential that schools and families make concerted efforts to develop pathways for parental participation in the educational process (Hill & Taylor, 2004).



Why is it important?

- The involvement of parents and caregivers in a child's schooling is positively related to that student's academic, social and emotional adjustment, as parents are more readily able to offer supplementary guidance at home when they have knowledge of what their children are learning at school (Barger et al., 2019).
- School-based parental involvement can benefit the entire school community by way of creating extended family networks and, in turn, shared information and resources (Erkenbrack, 2026)
- Parental engagement at school enhances bonds between schools and families and serves to increase mutual respect between educators and parents (Epstein, 2001).
- Parental participation in schooling is crucial, as a lack of parental involvement contributes to inequities in educational achievement (Larocque et al., 2011).

1 877 840 2424
thelearningbar.com
support@thelearningbar.com

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In Practice



What can schools do to get parents involved?

Parent involvement extends beyond attendance at school functions and involves ongoing partnerships between families, schools and the greater community. School personnel can help facilitate such partnerships by:

- Helping parents establish conditions in the home environment to support student growth and development. These considerations will vary, but may entail nutrition assistance programs, parenting workshops, and supporting pathways for further education for parents.
- Establishing a regular cadence and medium for effective two-way communication between home and school. Hold parent-teacher conferences at least once a year and ensure that messaging is clear and concise, with regular follow-ups where appropriate.
- Soliciting family involvement within the school community through a variety of volunteer initiatives. School events and social functions, family resource rooms, and even classroom volunteering all serve as opportunities to create meaningful bonds between home and school.
- Supplying information and inspiration to families concerning how they can best support academic related matters at home. This may include sharing homework policies, school assessment practices and supplementary activities that can be done at home.
- Providing both formal and informal channels for parent involvement and representation in school-related decisions (e.g., school committees and councils and parent advisory groups).
- Distributing information concerning relevant programs and services that exist within the greater school community, especially those that support student learning.

By facilitating each of these six types of parental involvement, schools can effectively support a framework that both informs and engages parents and caregivers in their child's education (Epstein, 2001).

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