

Working Together for Student Success

These ideas were generated at the Spring, 2008 PA PIRC Regional Meetings peer sharing group conversations.

Parents can:

- Ensure homework space and time for child.
- Attend school functions and meetings.
- Read with child.
- Join and actively serve on the parent-teacher organizations, parents group and/or school site council.
- Learn about the school's curriculum (how they teach the academic standards).
- Volunteer in the classroom, at a welcome desk or on the playground, at a bus stop or on the streets on the way to school, and/or join community efforts such as park clean-up committee.
- Bring your work and community experiences.
- Ask questions. Talk with other parents, teachers and principals, and with community service organizations.
- Demonstrate an interest in what your child is learning and show that it is useful.
- Support learning at home by providing homework time and space.
- Share your excitement about learning.
- Show ways that adults continue to learn. Tell them something you learned recently.
- Communicate with the school. Send notes, call teachers, and/or send emails to demonstrate your interest, share important information about your child, or check for ways you can be involved.
- Know your child's typical level of performance. Find out what he or she is learning.
- Become aware of the school's performance level.

Schools can:

- Build capacity of parents to be fully engaged in school decisions. Explain how schools systems operate. Share decision making.
- Conduct an evaluation of effectiveness of the policy and strategies that ensure parent involvement----with parents and family members.
- Reach out to and welcome parents (including those with limited English proficiency). Ex. Doughnuts with Dad/Muffins with Mom.
- Ensure the opportunity for two-way communication using a variety of media.
- Provide information about the grade level standards and curriculum and materials used.
- Meet with parents about their children's progress.
- Connect with families strengths and support the development of resiliency factors for all family members.
- Reach out to community partners.

Community organizations can:

- Build capacity of family members.
- Participate in plans for student achievement.
- Provide student enrichment activities such as after school care, tutoring, recreational and cultural experiences.
- Businesses and local government can be involved, not only as contributors of funds or people power, but as planners and actors in producing opportunities for students to succeed.
- Community organizations and individual citizens can be important advocates for or champions for students and for the schools.
- Community members and organizations can bring resources to meet family needs for basic household supplies, supplemental income, job training, child care, health care, counseling services and opportunities to volunteer.