

Home Involvement in Schooling: A Self-study Survey

This arena expands concern for parent involvement to encompass anyone in the home who is influencing the student's life. In some cases, grandparents, aunts, or older siblings have assumed the parenting role. Older brothers and sisters often are the most significant influences on a youngster's life choices. Thus, schools and communities must go beyond focusing on parents in their efforts to enhance home involvement.

This arena includes school-wide and classroom-based efforts designed to strengthen the home situation, enhance family problem solving capabilities, and increase support for student well-being. Accomplishing all this requires school-wide and classroom-based systems and programs to (a) address the specific learning and support needs of adults in the home, such as offering them ESL, literacy, vocational, and citizenship classes, enrichment and recreational opportunities, and mutual support groups, (b) help those in the home improve how basic student obligations are met, such as providing guidance related to parenting and how to help with schoolwork, (c) improve forms of basic communication that promote the well-being of student, family, and school, (d) enhance the home-school connection and sense of community, (e) foster participation in making decisions essential to a student's well-being, (f) facilitate home support of student learning and development, (g) mobilize those at home to problem solve related to student needs, and (h) elicit help (support, collaborations, and partnerships) from those at home with respect to meeting classroom, school, and community needs. The context for some of this activity may be a *parent or family center* if one has been established at the site. Outcomes include indices of parent learning, student progress, and community enhancement specifically related to home involvement.

Indicate all items that apply.

I. Addressing Specific Learning and Support Needs of the Family	Yes	Yes but more of this is needed	No	If no, is this something you want?
A. Does the site offer adult classes focused on				
1. English As a Second Language (ESL)?	___	___	___	___
2. basic literacy skills?	___	___	___	___
3. GED preparation?	___	___	___	___
4. job preparation?	___	___	___	___
5. citizenship preparation?	___	___	___	___
6. other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
B. Are there groups for				
1. mutual support?	___	___	___	___
2. discussion?	___	___	___	___
C. Are adults in the home offered assistance in accessing outside help for personal needs?	___	___	___	___
D. Which of the following are available to help those in the home meet basic survival needs and basic obligations to the student?				
1. Is help provided for addressing special family needs for				
>food?	___	___	___	___
>clothing?	___	___	___	___
>shelter?	___	___	___	___
>health and safety?	___	___	___	___
>school supplies?	___	___	___	___
>other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
2. Are education programs offered on				
>childrearing/parenting?	___	___	___	___
>creating a supportive home environment for students?	___	___	___	___
>reducing factors that interfere with a student's school learning and performance?	___	___	___	___
3. Are guidelines provided for helping a student deal with homework?	___	___	___	___
4. Other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
 II. Improve Mechanisms for Communication and Connecting School & Home				
A. Are there periodic general announcements and meetings such as				
1. advertising for incoming students?	___	___	___	___
2. orientation for incoming students and families?	___	___	___	___
3. bulletins/newsletters?	___	___	___	___
4. website	___	___	___	___
5. back to school night/open house?	___	___	___	___
6. parent teacher conferences?	___	___	___	___
7. other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___

Home Involvement in Schooling (cont.)

	Yes	Yes but more of this is needed	No	If no, is this something you want?
B. Is there a system to inform the home on a regular basis (e.g., regular letters, newsletters, email, computerized phone messages, website)				
1. about general school matters?	___	___	___	___
2. about opportunities for home involvement?	___	___	___	___
3. other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
C. To enhance home involvement in the student's program and progress, are interactive communications used, such as				
1. sending notes home regularly?	___	___	___	___
2. a computerized phone line?	___	___	___	___
3. email	___	___	___	___
4. frequent in-person conferences with the family?	___	___	___	___
5. other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
D. Which of the following are used to enhance the home-school connection and sense of community?				
1. Does the school offer orientations & open houses?	___	___	___	___
2. Does the school have special receptions for new families?	___	___	___	___
3. Does the school regularly showcase students to the community through				
>student performances?	___	___	___	___
>award ceremonies?	___	___	___	___
>other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
4. Does the school offer the community				
>cultural and sports events?	___	___	___	___
>topical workshops and discussion groups?	___	___	___	___
>health fairs	___	___	___	___
>family preservation fairs	___	___	___	___
>work fairs	___	___	___	___
>newsletters	___	___	___	___
>community bulletin boards	___	___	___	___
>community festivals and celebrations	___	___	___	___
>other (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
5. Is there outreach to hard to involve families, such as				
>making home visits?	___	___	___	___
>offering support networks?	___	___	___	___
>other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
6. Other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___

III. Involving Homes in Making Decisions Essential to the Student?

A. Families are invited to participate through personal				
1. letters	___	___	___	___
2. phone calls	___	___	___	___
3. email	___	___	___	___
4. other (specify) _____	___	___	___	___

Home Involvement in Schooling (cont.)

	Yes	Yes but more of this is needed	No	If no, is this something you want?
B. Families are informed about schooling choices through				
1. letters	___	___	___	___
2. phone calls	___	___	___	___
3. email	___	___	___	___
4. conferences	___	___	___	___
5. other (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
C. Families are taught skills to participate effectively in decision making.	___	___	___	___
D. With respect to mobilizing problem solving at home related to student needs				
1. Is instruction provided to enhance family problem solving skills(including increased awareness of resources for assistance)?	___	___	___	___
2. Is good problem solving modeled at conferences with the family?	___	___	___	___
E. Other (specify) _____	___	___	___	___

IV. Enhancing Home Support for Student Learning and Development

A. Are families instructed on how to provide opportunities for students to apply what they are learning?	___	___	___	___
B. Are families instructed on how to use enrichment opportunities to enhance youngsters' social and personal and academic skills and higher order functioning?	___	___	___	___
C. Are family field trips organized?	___	___	___	___
D. Are families provided space and facilitation for meeting together as a community of learners	___	___	___	___
E. Are family literacy programs available?	___	___	___	___
F. Are family homework programs offered?	___	___	___	___
G. Other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___

Home Involvement in Schooling (cont.)

	Yes	Yes but more of this is needed	No	If no, is this something you want?
V. Recruiting Families to Strengthen School and Community				
A. For which of the following are those in the home recruited and trained to help meet school/community needs?				
1. Improving schooling for students by assisting				
>administrators	___	___	___	___
>teachers	___	___	___	___
>other staff	___	___	___	___
>others in the community	___	___	___	___
>with lessons or tutoring	___	___	___	___
>on class trips	___	___	___	___
>in the cafeteria	___	___	___	___
>in the library	___	___	___	___
>in computer labs	___	___	___	___
>with homework helplines	___	___	___	___
>the front office to welcome visitors and new enrollees and their families	___	___	___	___
>with phoning/emailing home regarding absences	___	___	___	___
>outreach to the home	___	___	___	___
>other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
2. Improving school operations by assisting with				
>school and community up-keep and beautification	___	___	___	___
>improving school-community relations	___	___	___	___
>fund raising	___	___	___	___
>PTA	___	___	___	___
>enhancing public support by increasing political awareness about the contributions and needs of the school	___	___	___	___
>school governance	___	___	___	___
>advocacy for school needs	___	___	___	___
>advisory councils	___	___	___	___
>program planning	___	___	___	___
>other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
3. Establishing home-community networks to benefit the community	___	___	___	___
4. Other? (specify) _____	___	___	___	___
VI. Capacity Building to Enhance Home Involvement				
A. Are there programs to enhance broad stakeholder involvement in efforts in enhancing home involvement in schools?	___	___	___	___
B. With respect to programs used to meet the educational needs of personnel related to home involvement				
1. Is there ongoing training for learning supports staff with respect to enhancing home involvement?	___	___	___	___
2. Is there ongoing training for others involved in enhancing home involvement? (e.g., teachers, parent peer buddies, office staff, administrators)?	___	___	___	___
3. Other (specify) _____	___	___	___	___

Home Involvement in Schooling (cont.)

	Yes	Yes but more of this is needed	No	If no, is this something you want?
C. Which of the following topics are covered in educating stakeholders?				
1. how to facilitate family participation in decision making meetings	—	—	—	—
2. designing an inclusionary "Parent Center"	—	—	—	—
3. overcoming barriers to home involvement	—	—	—	—
4. developing group-led mutual support groups	—	—	—	—
5. developing families as a community of learners	—	—	—	—
6. available curriculum for parent education	—	—	—	—
7. teaching parents to be mentors & leaders at the school	—	—	—	—
8. Other (specify) _____	—	—	—	—
D. Indicate below other things you want the school to do in enhancing home involvement.	—	—	—	—

- Indicate below other ways the school enhances home involvement.

- Other matters relevant to home involvement are found in the surveys on
 - >Classroom-based Approaches ...
 - >Support for Transitions
 - >Community Involvement and Support
 - >Student and Family Assistance