# *Home Involvement, Engagement, and Re-engagement in Schooling*

**T**his arena expands concern for parent involvement to encompass anyone in the home who is influencing the student's life. In some cases, grandparents, aunts, older siblings, "nannies," and foster homes have assumed parental and caretaking roles. Thus, schools and communities must go beyond focusing on parents in their efforts to enhance involvement and engagement of the most significant people in as student's home situation.

Included in this arena are school-wide and classroom-based efforts designed to

(a) address the specific learning and support needs of adults in the home (e.g., support services to assist in addressing basic survival needs and obligations to the children; adult education classes to enhance literacy, job skills, English-as-a-second language, citizenship preparation; enrichment and recreational opportunities; mutual support groups)

(b) help those in the home improve how basic student obligations are met (e.g., enhancing caretaker literacy skills; providing guidance related to parenting and how to help with schoolwork; teaching family members how to support and enrich student learning)

(c) improve forms of basic communication that promote the well-being of student, family, and school (e.g., facilitating home-school connections and sense of community through family networking and mutual support; facilitating child care and transportation to reduce barriers to coming to school; language translation; phone calls and/or e-mail from teacher and other staff with good news; frequent and balanced conferences – student-led when feasible; outreach to attract and facilitate participation of hard-to-reach families –  including student dropouts)

(d) enhancing home support for student learning and development and for problem solving and decision making essential to a student's well-being (e.g., preparing and engaging families for participation in supporting growth and planning and problem-solving)

(e) recruit those at home to support, collaborate, and partner in strengthening school and community by meeting classroom, school, and community needs (e.g., volunteering to welcome and support new families; participating in school governance)

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 caretakers' learning, student progress, and community enhancement specifically related to home involvement.

*Home Involvement ... in Schooling*

Use the following ratings in responding to items 1-5.
 DK = don't know; 1 =  not yet; 2 = planned; 3 = just recently initiated; 4 = has been functional for
 a while; 5 = well institutionalized (well established with a commitment to maintenance

1. Is there a stated policy for enhancing Home Involvement
    and Engagement?                                                                    DK  1  2  3  4  5

2. Is there a designated leader or leaders for enhancing
    Home Involvement and Engagement?                                          DK  1  2  3  4  5

3. Do personnel involved in enhancing Home Involvement
    and Engagement meet regularly as a workgroup to               DK  1  2  3  4  5
    evaluate current status and plan next steps?

4. Is there a written plan for capacity building related to
    enhancing Home Involvement and Engagement?                     DK  1  2  3  4  5

5. Are there written descriptions available to give all
    stakeholders regarding current Home Involvement and          DK  1  2  3  4  5
    Engagement?
_____
Use the following ratings in responding to the next items.
        DK  =  don't know
        1      =  hardly ever effective
        2      =  effective about 25 % of the time
        3      =  effective about half the time
        4      =  effective about 75% of the time
        5      =  almost always effective

With respect to enhancing Home Involvement and
Engagement, how effective are each of the following:

        >current policy                                                            DK  1  2  3  4  5

        >designated leadership                                                DK  1  2  3  4  5

        >workgroup monitoring and planning of next steps     DK  1  2  3  4  5

        >capacity building efforts                                              DK  1  2  3  4  5

*Home Involvement ... in Schooling (cont.)*

Indicate all items that apply.

## I. Addressing Family Basic Needs

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A. Which of the following are available to help those in the home meet basic survival needs?** | | | | |
| 1. Is help provided for addressing special family needs for | | | | |
| >food? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >clothing? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >shelter? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >health and safety? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >school supplies? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >other? (specify) _____ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 2. Are adults in the home offered assistance in accessing outside help for personal needs? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| **B. Are there groups for** | | | | |
| 1. mutual support? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 2. discussion of relevant concerns and problems? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| **C. 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) _____ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |

## II. Helping Families Address Obligations to the Student

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A. Are education opportunities offered to learn about** | | | | |
| 1. child-rearing/parenting? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 2. creating a supportive home environment for students? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 3. reducing factors that interfere with a student's school learning and performance? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| B. Are guidelines provided for helping a student deal with homework? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| C. Are adults in the home offered assistance in accessing help in addressing their child's needs? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| D. Other? (specify) _____ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |

## III. Improve Mechanisms for Communication and Connecting School & Home

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **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)

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 balanced in-person conferences with the family? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 5. student-led conferences? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 6. messages with good news about the student | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 7. 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. Does the school facilitate family networking and mutual support? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 6. How does the school address barriers to participation? | | | | |
| >facilitate child care? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >facilitate transportation? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >provide language translations? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 7. Is there outreach to hard to involve families? | | | | |
| >making home visits? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >offering support networks? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >focusing on student dropouts? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >other? (specify) _____ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 8. Other? (specify) _____ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |

*Home Involvement ... in Schooling (cont.)*

**IVa. Enhancing Home Support for Student Learning and Development**

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 there family field trips? | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ |
| 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) _____ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ |

**IVb. Involving Homes in Making Decisions Essential to the Student?**

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Families are invited to participate through personal | | | | |
| 1. letters | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ |
| 2. phone calls | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ |
| 3. email | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ |
| 4. other (specify) _____ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ |
| 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. Does the school hold frequent in-person conferences with the family and student focused on problem-solving and decision making? | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ |
| E. 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? | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ |
| F. Other (specify) _____ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ | ⎯ |

### V. Recruiting Families to Collaborate in Strengthening School and Community

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|

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

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| >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/emails home regarding absences? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >outreach to the home? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| >other? (specify) _____ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |

2. Improving school operations by assisting with

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| >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

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. Establishing home-community networks to benefit the community | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 4. Other? (specify) _____ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |

### VI. Capacity Building to Enhance Home Involvement

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Are resources budgeted to enhance to enhance home involvement and engagement in schools? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| B. Are steps taken to enhance broad stakeholder involvement in home involvement and engagement? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |

C. Is there ongoing personnel preparation related to home involvement and engagement for

| | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. teachers? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 2. student and learning supports staff? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 3. administrators? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 4. office staff? | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |
| 5. other (specify) _____ | ___ | ___ | ___ | ___ |

*Home Involvement ... in Schooling (cont.)*

| D. Which of the following topics are covered in educating staff and other key stakeholders? | Yes | Yes but more of this is needed | No | If no, is this something you want? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. enhancing home involvement and engagement? | —— | —— | —— | —— |
| 2. overcoming barriers to home involvement (including re-engagement of disconnected families)? | —— | —— | —— | —— |
| 5. facilitating family participation in meetings to problem-solve and make decisions about the student? | —— | —— | —— | —— |
| 4. developing group-led mutual support groups? | —— | —— | —— | —— |
| 5. developing families as a community of learners? | —— | —— | —— | —— |
| 6. designing an inclusionary "Parent Center"? | —— | —— | —— | —— |
| 7. adopting curriculum for parent education? | —— | —— | —— | —— |
| 8. teaching parents to mentor & lead at the school? | —— | —— | —— | —— |
| 9. Other? (specify) _____ | —— | —— | —— | —— |

Indicate below other things you want the school to do in enhancing home involvement and engagement.

Indicate below other ways the school enhances home involvement and engagement.

Note: Other matters relevant to *Home Involvement, Engagement, and Re-engagement* are included in the other self-study surveys.