

**Review the self-study survey entitled:
Home Involvement in Schooling**

Attached is a self-study survey. For purposes of this tutorial, just read over the items. These provide a sense of what might take place related to enhancing home involvement.

The survey itself can be used at a school in a number of ways (see the introductory page entitled: “About the Self-Study Process to Enhance the Component for Addressing Barriers to Student Learning”).

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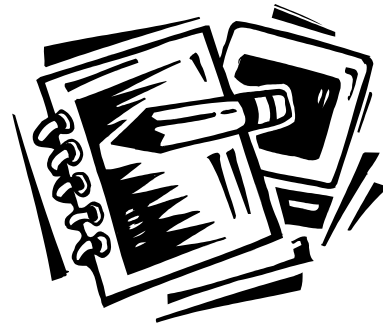


Excerpt from

*From the Center's Clearinghouse ...**

An introductory packet on

***Addressing Barriers to Learning:
A Set of Surveys to Map What a School
Has and What it Needs***



This document is a hardcopy version of a resource that can be downloaded at no cost from the Center's website (<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>).

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Surveying and Planning to Enhance Efforts to Address Barriers to Learning at a School Site

The following resource aides were designed as a set of self-study surveys to aid school staff as they try to map and analyze their current programs, services, and systems with a view to developing a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to addressing barriers to learning.

In addition to an overview Survey of Learning Supports System Status, there are self-study surveys to help think about ways to address barriers to student learning by enhancing

- Classroom-based Approaches to Enable and Re-engage Students in Classroom Learning
- Crisis Assistance and Prevention
- Support for Transitions
- Home Involvement in Schooling
- Community Outreach for Involvement and Support
- Student and Family Assistance Programs and Services
- School-Community Collaboration

About the Self-Study Process to Enhance the Component for Addressing Barriers to Student Learning

This type of self-study is best done by teams.

However, it is *NOT* about having another meeting and/or getting through a task!

It is about moving on to better outcomes for students through

- > working together to understand what is and what might be
- > clarifying gaps, priorities, and next steps

Done right it can

- > counter fragmentation and redundancy
- > mobilize support and direction
- > enhance linkages with other resources
- > facilitate effective systemic change
- > integrate all facets of systemic change and counter marginalization of the component to address barriers to student learning

A group of school staff (teachers, support staff, administrators) could use the items to discuss how the school currently addresses any or all of the areas of the component to address barriers (the enabling component). Members of a team initially might work separately in responding to survey items, but the real payoff comes from group discussions.

The items on a survey help to clarify

- > what is currently being done and whether it is being done well and
- > what else is desired.

This provides a basis for a discussion that

- > analyzes whether certain activities should no longer be pursued (because they are not effective or not as high a priority as some others that are needed).
- > decides about what resources can be redeployed to enhance current efforts that need embellishment
- > identifies gaps with respect to important areas of need.
- > establishes priorities, strategies, and timelines for filling gaps.

The discussion and subsequent analyses also provide a form of quality review.

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.

Home Involvement in Schooling

Indicate all items that apply.

	Yes	Yes but more of this is needed	No	If no, is this something you want?
I. Addressing Specific Learning and Support Needs of the Family				
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?
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