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.

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.)

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.)**

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) _______________________

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<th>No</th>
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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 help lines
   >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) _____________________
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) ___________________

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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