



PEN Notes: Fact Sheet #1

(Published by Parent Education Network: * (877) 900-9736 * (307) 684-7441)

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement includes:

➤ Participation of parents in every aspect of education and development of the child from birth to adulthood

➤ Responsibilities in decisions about children's education, health and well being, and participation in organizations that reflect the community's collaborative idea for all children

Why parent involvement:

Parent involvement of most any kind increases student achievement and self-esteem. Programs designed with strong parent involvement produce students who perform better than identical programs without parent involvement. Schools that relate well to their communities have student bodies that out-perform other schools. Students who are failing improve dramatically when parents are called in to help. Parent involvement also has positive results for parents, schools and community.

Three Types of Parent Involvement:

1. As first educators in the home
2. As partners with the school
3. As advocates for all children and youth in a society



"Givens" in parent involvement:

- All children can learn.
- Parents want the best for their children.
- Parents are a key resource in their children's education.
- Children's success is the main focus.
- School is not solely responsible for a child's academic achievement.



Impact of parent involvement:

(on students)

- ❖ Better attendance at school and school functions
- ❖ Higher grades over all
- ❖ Higher self-esteem at all levels
- ❖ Better communication skills
- ❖ More positive attitude
- ❖ Builds better communication skills between parents and students



(on parents)

- ◆ Parents become more community minded
- ◆ Raise their own self-esteem
- ◆ Develop a more positive self-image
- ◆ Become more successful in housing, community and jobs

(on schools)

- Gather support for the schools
- Bring additional resources to school
- More positive attitude toward school
- Most cost effective way to increase student achievement



(on teachers)

er Teachers rate parents as more helpful



- er* Student achievement increases
- er* Parents view teachers in a more positive light
- er* Teacher morale increases

er Teachers improve their teaching skills and report much greater job satisfaction

(on communities)

- Better educated residents
- Safer, more stable communities
- Thriving businesses and families
- Attracting new business and jobs
- Strong local economy
- Good quality of life and a bright future for everyone



Why schools need parent involvement:

- Improves parent-child and school community relationship
- Enhances child's self-esteem
- Helps parents and the community develop positive attitudes toward school and a better understanding of the schooling process
- Students receive higher grades and higher test scores
- School programs are more successful
- Build more effective schools
- Enhance the community's perception of the school
- Create higher community awareness and support for public schools

A "Parent" is any adult who plays an important role in a child's family life.

Parents can include extended families which may be:

grandparents, foster parents, step parents, aunts, uncles, guardians, etc.



Remember: parents are their children's first teacher from birth through early adulthood. When children enter into school, parents continue to play a critical role in formal learning.

Bottom line: Family involvement in education makes a positive difference in children's education success. Supporting family involvement in education is a **WIN/WIN situation for all shareholders**, including community and religious groups, families, schools and employer.