Families, Educators, and Communities Fostering Student Success

Best Practices Framework for Effective Family, School, and Community Partnering

The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) is to *review best practices and recommend to policy makers and educators strategies to increase parent involvement in public education, thereby helping to improve the quality of public education and raise the level of students' academic achievement throughout the state* (C.R.S 22-7-301, 2012). A component of that responsibility is to suggest an overall framework built on the research findings and knowledge of effective educational practices. A **classroom, school, district, state agency or community organization** can use this framework in strategically planning for a site or situation's partnering needs while focusing on student achievement. The framework can guide choosing the most relevant programs, actions, and resources in reaching identified goals and evaluating results.

1. **Align strategies and practices with the *National Standards for Family-School Partnerships* (PTA, 2008) for every student and family.**
   - Ensure inclusion of those with cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic, and learning differences.
2. **Apply research and laws to practice, focusing on student success.**
   - Do what works, consistently.
3. **Share knowledge and responsibility.**
   - Use two-way communication.
   - Partner actively and equitably.
4. **Use data to make decisions.**
   - Be strategic and intentional.
   - Action plan, based on what exists and what is needed.
   - Continuously improve.

Please Note: This draft framework was developed from the following; 2013 SACPIE Executive Committee discussions, review of Colorado legislation, and research findings.

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Family, School, and Community Partnering Research to Practice: Doing What Works!

Coordinating Student Learning, In and Out of School

- Students spend more than 70% of their waking hours outside of school. (Callendar & Hansen, 2004)

Supporting Student Achievement at Home and in the Community

- Specific home, community, and "out-of-school, coordinated" actions which improve student achievement are as follows: (1) frequent family discussions about school; (2) families encouraging their children regarding schoolwork; (3) providing resources to help with schoolwork; (4) supervision of homework, TV viewing, after-school activities. (Marzano, 2003)

Reaching Out to Every Family for Every Student

- The more parents perceive teachers as valuing their contributions, keeping them informed, and providing them with suggestions, the higher parental engagement in their children's learning. (Patrikakou & Weissberg, 2000)

- School-initiated, specific parental involvement programs - such as shared reading, homework checking, and teamed two-way communication - are significantly and positively related to academic achievement for students at all levels. (Jeynes, 2012)

Finding Solutions

- Educator and family challenges in partnering together for student success are similar; they need explicit role expectations for sharing responsibility, self-confidence, skills, workable logistics, authentic invitations, and mutually respectful relationships. (Hoover-Dempsey, Whitaker & Ice, 2010)

- When students struggle in school, the most effective interventions are those where families and school personnel work together to implement plans and strategies, utilizing ongoing two-way information exchanges. (Cox, 2005)

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