



School Connections

A quarterly publication from FACTS, a New York State Parental Information and Resource Center

Families and Communities Together with Schools (FACTS) is a New York State Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC). The FACTS program is funded by the US Department of Education and provides information and support to parents and schools with a focus on parental involvement.

If you have any questions regarding parental involvement, please call the FACTS School Coordinator at (315) 779-7071, email dlothrop@mail.boces.com, or visit our website at www.nyspirc.org.



Websites

www.projectappleseed.org - ideas on improving parental involvement in public schools

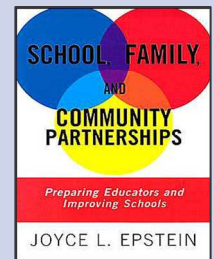
www.educationworld.com - free resources for educators and great ideas for incorporating parental involvement in your classroom and school

www.ahaprocess.com - free downloadable documents on working with families in poverty and parent and community involvement

Professional Resource Review

School, Family, and Community Partnerships

Author: Joyce Epstein



Most teacher education, administrative training, and other education of school professionals omit topics of school, family, and community partnerships. Many educators are not prepared to work with parents when problems occur and this can cause difficulties for teachers, parents and students. How can teachers and administrators be prepared to create partnerships with families and communities?

This valuable resource provides research-based information regarding the importance of creating a partnership between the school, family, and community. Teachers and parents share the responsibility for the education and development of students. *School, Family and Community Partnerships* can help your school develop a comprehensive program for family and community engagement. This resource is a must for teacher education, preparation of school administrators, and other professional programs that are working to create successful partnerships between schools, families, and the community.

The pathway to educational excellence lies within each school.

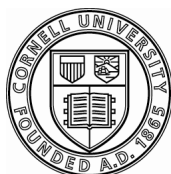
-Terrance Deal

If we always do what we've always done, we will get what we've always got.

-Adam Urbanski



FACTS is a New York State PIRC sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County in partnership with Jefferson-Lewis BOCES.



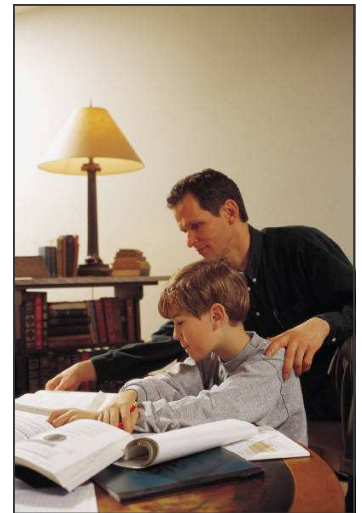
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Schools and Communities Working Together

Research has shown that when schools and communities work together student achievement improves. For teachers it is sometimes difficult trying to figure out how to connect with parents in ways that can make a meaningful difference. As educators, it is also important to remember the significant contributions extended family and the community can have for students and the school.

In this month's professional resource review, *School, Family and Community Partnerships*, Joyce Epstein recommends six types of involvement that schools should promote in order to have the greatest impact on student achievement. The following are the six types of involvement and suggested ideas schools can use to create a partnership with parents and the community.



Six Types of Involvement

Parenting Assist families with parenting skills, family support, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions to support learning at each age and grade level. Assist schools in understanding families' backgrounds, cultures, and goals for children.

Communicating Communicate with families about school programs and student progress. Create two-way communication channels between school and home.

Volunteering Improve recruitment, training, activities, and schedules to involve families as volunteers and as audiences at the school or in other locations. Enable educators to work with volunteers who support students and the school.

Learning at Home Involve families with their children in academic learning at home, including homework, goal setting, and other curriculum-related activities. Encourage teachers to design homework that enables students to share and discuss interesting tasks.

Decision Making Include families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy activities through school councils or improvement teams, committees, and parent organizations.

Collaborating with the Community Coordinate resources and services for families, students, and the school with community groups, including businesses, agencies, cultural and civic organizations, and colleges or universities. Enable all to contribute service to the community.

Source: Epstein., 2002.

Contact FACTS

If you have any questions or ideas on how the FACTS program can help your school, please contact:

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