



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.

How Can You Get Parents Involved?

Create opportunities for parents to do the following:

1) Observe

Invite the parents in to observe one or more parts of the day on a regular basis. This will help them have a better understanding of the curriculum and help them find ways they can help in the education of their child.

2) Participate

During your open house activities have parents participate in literacy centers and follow their child's schedule.

3) Sharing

Have parents or family members share a special skill, hobby, family custom or a special interest with the class.

4) Help

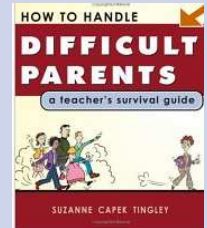
Send home tasks for parents to help with, such as cutting out shapes, clerical work, finishing up projects, etc. This is a great way to include those parents who are unable to come to school to help out.

Source: Parents & Teachers Working Together by Carol Davis and Alice Young

Professional Resource Review

How to Handle Difficult Parents: A Teacher's Survival Guide

Author: Suzanne Capek Tingley



New research shows that the number one reason for teachers leaving the educational field is due to the difficulty they have had dealing with parents.

This resource provides practical solutions and advice for educators on how to handle parents who have unreasonable expectations of teachers. It is a humorous book that will leave you laughing and is a resource that should be a part of every teacher's professional library.

Websites on Parental Involvement

www.partnershipschools.org

National Network of Partnership School through John Hopkins University

www.familyfriendlyschools.com

Family engagement activities

www.ncpie.org

National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education

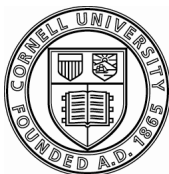
www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cfis/links.html

Resources and additional website links for professionals

www.pta.org

Parent Teacher Association website with resource information

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



Cornell University
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Parent Involvement Policies and School-Parent Compacts

Schools that receive Title 1 funds must work with parents of participating children to develop a written **Parent Involvement Policy**.

Each school receiving Title 1 funds must also work with parents to develop a written **School-Parent Compact** for all children participating in Title 1 activities, services and programs.

What does this mean for us?

- Schools must conduct an annual meeting for Title 1 parents to inform them of the policies, their rights under Title 1, and how they can be involved in planning, reviewing, and improving these programs.
- Schools must provide parents with timely information about the Title 1 programs, school curriculum, assessments used by the school and the proficiency levels that students are expected to meet.
- Schools must respond quickly to parent requests for opportunities to meet regularly and participate in decisions about the education of their child.

What is included in the Parent Involvement Policy?

The policy must detail ways the district will:

- Involve parents in the development of school improvement plans.
- Offer technical assistance and coordinate parent involvement activities to improve student achievement.
- Build school and parent capacities for strong parent involvement.
- Coordinate and integrate with other programs in the community.
- Annually evaluate with parents the effectiveness of the policy in academically improving the school.

What is the School-Parent Compact?

The compact must outline how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for improving student achievement. It must also describe how parents and school will work together to build and develop strong partnerships to achieve state expectations for student success.

Some examples include:

- The school's responsibility to provide high quality instruction in a supportive learning environment.
- The parent's responsibility to support children's learning at home.
- The student's responsibility to improve academic achievement and achieve the state's high standards.

Contact FACTS

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

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