

Epstein's Framework of Six Types of Involvement

1. **PARENTING:** Help all families establish home environments to support children as students.
 - Parent education and other courses or training for parents (e.g., GED, college credit, family literacy).
 - Family support programs to assist families with health, nutrition, and other services.
 - Home visits at transition points to pre-school, elementary, middle, and high school.
2. **COMMUNICATING:** Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children's progress.
 - Conferences with every parent at least once a year.
 - Language translators to assist families as needed.
 - Regular schedule of useful notices, memos, phone calls, newsletters, and other communications.
3. **VOLUNTEERING:** Recruit and organize parent help and support.
 - School and classroom volunteer program to help teachers, administrators, students, and other parents.
 - Parent room or family center for volunteer work, meetings, and resources for families.
 - Annual postcard survey to identify all available talents, times, and locations of volunteers.
4. **LEARNING AT HOME:** Provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning.
 - Information for families on skills required for students in all subjects at each grade.
 - Information on homework policies and how to monitor and discuss schoolwork at home.
 - Family participation in setting student goals each year and in planning for college or work.
5. **DECISION MAKING:** Include parents in school decisions, developing parent leaders and representatives.
 - Active PTA/PTO or other parent organizations, advisory councils, or committees for parent leadership and participation.
 - Independent advocacy groups to lobby and work for school reform and improvements.
 - Networks to link all families with parent representatives.
6. **COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY:** Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development.
 - Information for students and families on community health, cultural, recreational, social support, and other programs/services.
 - Information on community activities that link to learning skills and talents, including summer programs for students.

National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement

Building upon the six types of parent involvement identified by Joyce L. Epstein, Ph.D., of the Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University, National PTA created program standards of excellence.

National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs	
Standard I:	Communicating— Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
Standard II:	Parenting— Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
Standard III:	Student Learning— Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
Standard IV:	Volunteering— Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.
Standard V:	School Decision Making and Advocacy— Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
Standard VI:	Collaborating with Community— Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

PARENT ACTION PLAN IDEAS

- Actively engaging parents and students in what it feels like to be from a non-mainstream culture.
- Triad Conferences (instead of Parent Conferences) with parent, student, teacher with a focus on goals and each participant have their own responsibility stated towards achieving goal.
- Implemented Joyce Epstein's model of parent involvement – an increased involvement of parents.
- Parents participating on the SIP committee.
- Open House/Evening to start new school year. Brochure: 10 strategies to support active reading skills, shared and discussed with parents.
- Literacy workshops for parents: comprehension strategies, writing strategies, etc.
- Have parents take online practice test in R & M to give them better idea of the complex R & M skills we teach our students and areas they could help reinforce at home.
- Phone call to each parent, each semester.
- Parents involved in decision making regarding the educational program, resources, vision and goals.

Parental Problem #1: How do you empower parents to participate in their student's education?

- Hold Sept. Parent/Child/Teacher conversations to write read/math goals for coming year.
- Develop and share with parents a list/examples how parents can participate in child's education and school activities.
- Involve parents in leadership with action teams: facilitator training and communication in newsletter

Parental Problem #2: How can parents support their children at home with their homework? What if the parents have academic or language limitation?

- Support or create after school tutoring program
- Language instruction for parents
- Make sure homework has a clear learning target

Parental Problem #3: How can schools share their strategies for parents to reinforce in the home?

- Parent student nights: content on problem solving
- Parent student workshop
- E-mail strategies offer parent training
- Workshop on conflict management
- Newsletter