

Family and Community Engagement Resources

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), Office of Indian/Multicultural Education develops monthly communication resources for schools to disseminate to parents. Research has shown students do better in school when their parent/guardian is actively involved. A one-page resource template is included to assist schools in encouraging parent/guardian involvement. This template is customizable to meet your school's needs.

The resource includes ideas and opportunities to share with parents each month. The resources are certainly not inclusive and staff is encouraged to add their own creative ideas and activities related to their school/district.

In study after study, researchers have discovered how important it is for parents to be actively involved in their child's education.

Studies find that students with involved parents are more likely to:

1. have higher grades and test scores
2. pass their classes, earn credits, and be promoted
3. attend school regularly
4. have better social skills, show good behavior, and adapt well to school
5. graduate and go on to further education¹

When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed not just in school, but throughout life. In fact, the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student's family is:

1. creating a home environment that encourages learning and
2. expressing high (but not unrealistic) expectations for their children's achievement and future careers²

The Parent Institute, *Selected Parent Involvement Research* A summary of selected research compiled by Dr. John H. Wherry, President, The Parent Institute, P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474, U.S.A.^{1, 2}



October

October resources for dissemination to families/communities.

- **[Sending Parents Useful Information Has Big Effects](#)**: A behavioral scientist at the Harvard Kennedy School, Rogers has completed a number of experiments measuring the impressive effects of simply mailing parents information about how important school attendance is. Experiments that send parents useful information via text have found to increase student attendance and reduce course failures dramatically.
- **[ReadWriteThink](#)**: Provides educators, parents, and afterschool professionals with access to the highest quality practices in reading and language arts instruction by offering the very best in free materials. Their website includes a “Parent and Afterschool Resources” tab linking to resources (by grade level) that parent can use at home.
- **[6 Ways to Engage Families as Partners](#)**: In too many cases, efforts to engage families begin with policy makers, researchers, and professionals determining what families need to do, and then developing messages that will generate “buy-in,” support, and participation. Instead of messaging to families, start with listening to families.
- **[5 Social & Emotional Factors that Impact Student Motivation](#)**: We know from years of research that gaining insight into middle and high school students’ social and emotional skills is essential for motivating them to become self-propelled young adults. The Search Institute has broken these skills into five simple areas.
- **[Parent Engagement: Strategies for Involving Parents in School Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)**: A growing body of research demonstrates that enhancing protective factors in the lives of children and adolescents can help them avoid behaviors that place them at risk for adverse health and education outcomes.
- **[Real World Math](#)**: Putting math into real life experiences is often difficult for students in the primary through middle grades. Few children see the relationship. This article lists several activities parents can do to help children make the connection between math and the real world.
- **[Creative Ways to Encourage Students to Read](#)**: The struggling reader may be resistant to reading with a parent. In order to engage their child, a parent may want to become more creative in helping their child become a better reader. This brochure provides a list of creative ways for parents to engage their child in the reading process.
- **[52 Creative Activities for 52 Weeks](#)**: Being creative with kids is fun, easy, and important. Stimulating a child’s imagination, listening to a child’s ideas, and spending time doing creative activities together are keys to the child’s success in school. This article will provide several great activities each week to keep parents and children involved for the entire year. Copies of activities could be distributed weekly.