



Ideas for Strengthening Secondary Parent/School Partners

("Parent" refers to the student's primary caretaker.)

1. Ask parents about other family members who could be involved with school.
2. Ask students what their parents do to show support for their success in school. As a class project have students "interview" parents.
3. Include students in school meetings as ushers, greeters, or to introduce speakers and staff.
4. Plan an evening movie followed by discussion for students, parents, and school staff.
5. Allow families to play together in the school gym, or a weekly family recreation night.
6. Offer family language or math programs.
7. Advertise a daily, one-hour "Principal's Open Time" for drop-in visits or telephone calls from parents. Variations include teacher, counselor, or school nurse open times.
8. Hold regular "Breakfast with the Principal" sessions for parent/administration dialogue. Other themes include "Father's Breakfast," "Grandparent's Breakfast," and "Eighth Grade Breakfast."
9. Invite families new to the district to a "Get Acquainted Hour" with other parents prior to the new school year.



10. Include a "coupon book" in back-to-school materials for parent with a specific volunteer activity on each coupon. Mix activities that can be done at home or at work as well as school. Sprinkle in discount coupons from area stores and services.
11. Send home specific, concrete goals and expectations for both student achievement and parent involvement.
12. Include a chapter on expectations for parent involvement in the school handbook.
13. Work with the Chamber of Commerce and realtors to send packets of information about the schools to other business people (including American Indian, Asian, Black and Hispanic chambers).
14. Set up a speaker's bureau: students, parents, school staff, and community leaders to give lunch time presentations about school programs.
15. Organize meeting among representatives of community services, law enforcement, social services, mental health, and education to discuss issues and perspectives.
16. Ask businesses to publish parent involvement tips in their newsletters.
17. As a classroom project, match students and business people as pen pals.
18. Invite new school employees, parents, and students on a tour of the district. Point out recreation centers, libraries, and other facilities of interest.
19. Start a 24-hour phone recording for parents to announce school events, meeting, new community resources, etc.
20. Ask businesses to publish parent involvement tips in their newsletters.
21. Connect with school or community people who coordinate programs that mandate parent involvement such as Headstart, Chapter 1 or Special Education.

