



The Shift: Parent Involvement to Family Partnering

PARENT INVOLVEMENT	FAMILY PARTNERING
“Parent” refers primarily to parents.	“Family” refers to all caregivers and the student.
School is the typical site of involvement, usually with participants engaging in structured volunteering, such as fund-raisers and organized events.	Home, school and community settings are all partnering sites, with a focus on a broad array of opportunities to increase student learning and school success
Education is viewed primarily as the school’s responsibility with families often playing a limited or unclear role in supporting student school success, especially at the secondary level.	Education is explicitly viewed as a shared responsibility and opportunity between home and school with families playing a critical role in supporting student school success at each school level, including secondary.
School-parent meetings and conferences tend to be formally initiated by the school, with a primary focus on information, program eligibility, and school-developed/administered plans.	Family-school meetings can be initiated by the school or family members with a primary focus on student school success; much communication can occur outside of formal meetings; individual plan interventions and progress monitoring are mutually developed and implemented by home and school.
Homework is often given with the expectation of independent completion and with consequences for failure to comply.	Homework is seen as an important home-school “touch point” designed to expand learning for every student; successful completion is related to improving achievement; joint problem-solving occurs to ensure every student’s success, which may also involve community or school support.
Communication is often one-way from the school to the home, mostly through formal written formats.	Communication is two-way from school to home or home to school through various means.
A few parents tend to participate at school-based events and on school committees.	Every family is given opportunities to participate and to gain information, with options to support the school and learning from home or work.