

# Benefits of Parent Involvement



## Parent and Family Involvement and Student Success

### Achievement

- When parents are involved, students achieve more, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parents' education level.
- The more extensive the parent involvement, the higher the student achievement.
- When parents are involved in their students' education, those students have higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and more consistently completed homework.
- Students whose parents are involved in their lives have higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education.
- In programs that are designed to involve parents in full partnerships, student achievement for disadvantaged children not only improves, it can reach levels that are standard for middle-class children. In addition, the children who are furthest behind make the greatest gains.
- If parents do not participate in school events, develop a working relationship with their children's educators, or keep up with what is happening in their children's school, then their children are more likely to fall behind in academic performance.

### Behavior

- When parents are involved, students exhibit more positive attitudes and motivation toward school and have a more positive self-concept.
- Students whose parents are involved in their education experience show improved behavior and have lower rates of suspension for disciplinary reasons.
- Student behaviors such as alcohol use, violence, and antisocial behavior decrease as parent involvement increases.
- Students whose parents are involved in their education experience improved communication with their teachers and family.
- Educators hold higher expectations of students whose parents collaborate with teachers and also hold higher opinions of those parents.

### Culture and Age

- Children from diverse cultural backgrounds tend to do better when parents and professionals collaborate to bridge the gap between the culture at home and the learning institution.
- The benefits of involving parents are not confined to the early years: There are significant gains at all ages and grade levels.
- Junior high and high school students whose parents remain involved make better transitions, maintain the quality of their work, and develop more realistic plans for their future. Students whose parents are not involved are more likely to drop out of school.

# How Parent and Family Involvement Benefits Parents



## **Social and Emotional Benefits**

- Parents show more sensitivity to children's social, emotional, and intellectual development needs.
- Parents become more accepting of their children.
- Parents become more affectionate, use less punishment, and more often praise their children.

## **Problem-Solving Abilities**

- Parents use more complex language with their children, encourage their children to verbalize more, and have more positive communication with their children's teachers.
- Parents reason more with children, place less emphasis on authority as the grounds for desired behaviors, praise children's initiative more, and encourage more exploratory behaviors.
- Parents are more aware of the causes of children's distress and more skillful in comforting children.

## **Personal Rewards**

- Parents experience higher self-esteem and feel less restricted by child rearing and homemaking tasks. They find children more interesting and enjoyable.
- Parents feel more confident in their decision-making skills.
- Parents more often pursue their own educational development.
- Parents more skillfully use community agencies to meet family and child needs.

# How Parent and Family Involvement Benefits Teachers, Principals, and Schools



## Benefits for Teachers and Principals

- Teachers and principals experience improvements in self-esteem and a higher morale.
- Teachers and principals feel more respect for their profession.
- Job satisfaction increases among teachers and principals.
- Consistent parent involvement improves communication and relations among parents, teachers, and administrators.
- Teachers and administrators experience improvements in community support of schools.

## Benefits for School Quality

- Schools have more support from families and better reputations in the community.
- School programs that involve parents outperform identical programs without parent and family involvement.
- Schools where children are failing improve dramatically when parents are enabled to become effective partners in their children's education.
- The schools' practices to inform and involve parents are stronger determinants of whether inner-city parents will be involved with their children's education than parent education, family size, marital status, and even student grade level.