The Importance of Parent Involvement in Student Achievement

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Research Supports the importance of Parent Involvement in Children’s School
“...the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school isn’t income or social status but the extent to which that student's family is able to:
✓ Create a home environment that encourages learning
✓ Express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for their children's achievement and future careers
✓ Become involved in their children's education at school and in the community

Henderson and Berla (1994)
Create a home environment that encourages learning:

- Limit technology and “screen” time
- Have a designated location and time for homework, in order to support the idea of the importance of doing school work, be available to support your child staying focused
- Let your child see you reading every day, whether for pleasure or for work.
- Explore local museums on free days or with passes checked out from the City library system
- Explore puzzles and word games together as a family
- Provide the tools to encourage creativity, such as crayons, paper, clay, sidewalk chalk, Legos, etc.
How do I support my child at school?

✓ **Express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for your children's achievement and future careers**

- Don’t expect straight A’s because your child is gifted. Many students develop asynchronously - they may be aces in Math or science and struggle with penmanship and expressing themselves - or vice versa.
- Be supportive and patient when your child struggles. Mastering difficulties builds confidence for the next time they are encountered.
- Be careful not to over-praise your child for work easily done well, rather, praise them heavily for working hard to master difficulties.
SUCCESS

WHAT PEOPLE THINK IT LOOKS LIKE

SUCCESS

WHAT IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE
How do I support my child at school?

✓ **Become involved in your children's education at school and in the community**
  
  ✓ Take *every* opportunity to volunteer at your school site and otherwise. Your willingness to participate will stimulate your child to do the same.
  
  ✓ Attend as many school events as possible. When you value school, your child will too.
  
  ✓ If you have *any* time at all to be in the classroom to help on a regular basis - do it! Grandparents are often welcome to help as well on an on-going basis.
  
  ✓ *Always* attend Parent/Teacher meetings. Bringing you child is even better, as it will teach them that they are an important actor in their learning.
  
  ✓ Ask your child open ended questions that will lead to conversations such as: “What was the coolest thing you learned at school today?” rather than: “How was your day?” which can lead to a simple, communication ending “fine.”
Common Participation Opportunities at School Sites

Open house
School site beautification
Musical performances/Art Exhibits
Principal Coffees
Lunch Duty
Library
School Site Council/School Site Governance
DAC - Compensatory Funding Advisory (Title 1)
PTA (Parent Teacher Association)
GATE DAC - GATE District Advisory
ELAC/DELAC - English Learner Advisory
School Site’s Cluster Representative
School Foundation Committees