

Learning Starts at Home:

The Untapped Power of Family Partnerships

When families are meaningfully engaged in their children's education, student success grows across every measure; from grades and attendance to confidence and long-term achievement. This overview shares key research showing that authentic family-school partnerships are one of the most powerful, proven drivers of student outcomes.

Why Family Engagement Is a Proven Multiplier for Student Success

1. Family Involvement Consistently Boosts Academic Achievement

- A landmark meta-analysis of 52 studies found that students with involved families performed significantly better in school across all grade levels.
- On average, these students earned higher grades and test scores, enrolled in more advanced programs, and were more likely to graduate. (Fan & Chen, 2001; Hill & Tyson, 2009; Jeynes, 2005).

2. Attendance Improves When Families are Part of the Equation

- Schools with strong family-school partnerships see measurable gains in attendance and reductions in chronic absenteeism.
- Research from Johns Hopkins University found that consistent family engagement reduced chronic absenteeism by 10–15% in many districts. (Sheldon, 2007; Sheldon & Epstein, 2004, *The Journal of Educational Research*).

3. The Type of Engagement Matters More than the Amount

- Parents who set expectations, discuss learning goals, and maintain open communication about education have a greater impact on achievement than those who only volunteer or check homework.
- “Academic socialization” — linking home conversations to future goals — produces the strongest academic gains. (Hill & Tyson, 2009, *Developmental Psychology*).



4. Family Engagement Narrows Achievement Gaps

- Studies show that active family participation reduces disparities linked to socioeconomic status and ethnicity.
- In Jeynes' meta-analysis of over 300,000 students, engaged parents correlated with .25 to .30 standard deviation higher performance — enough to shrink long-standing achievement gaps. (Jeynes, 2007, Urban Education)

5. It's not just about academics — it changes behavior and confidence.

- Engaged families foster stronger motivation, better classroom behavior, and greater self-efficacy in students.
- Children feel more supported and accountable, leading to lasting positive habits that extend beyond school. (Henderson & Mapp, 2002,

Takeaway for Districts & Leaders

References: Fan & Chen, 2001; Hill & Tyson, 2009; Jeynes, 2005, 2007; Sheldon, 2007; Henderson & Mapp, 2002.

Family engagement isn't "nice to have;"
it's a data-proven growth strategy.

Schools that measure, cultivate, and
sustain genuine partnerships with
families consistently outperform those
that don't.

Strategic investment in family
engagement yields academic,
attendance, and behavioral dividends.

The research is clear that family
partnerships multiply results and create
equitable learning opportunities.

Important Links:

- [Parent and Family Engagement for Educators Resource](#): gives research, practice and frameworks for LEAs.
- [Parent Portal](#): numerous resources for parents regarding education.
- [Community Resources](#) for families
- [School Improvement with Parent and Family Engagement](#): Resource for engagement and special education.

Contact one of our Parent
Engagement Specialists to learn more!

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