



Essential Elements for Effective Home-School Connections

Participation

Current legislation and public school policy deem parental involvement either a requirement or an essential component in improving student achievement (Payne, 2006, Waterman, 2008). Research provides evidence on the direct correlation between parental involvement in education and how effective involvement impacts the academic success of students (Lee & Green, 2008). The following are **some** ideas on how actively participate in your child's academic development.

Elementary School

- Visit your child's classroom; a visit will give you an idea of what your child does at school and how he or she interacts with other children.
- Volunteer to help in the classroom as an assistant (listening to children read, for example, or serving as an aide during computer work).
- Support student events and performances by helping with them (such as sewing costumes or painting scenery for a school play) and by attending them.
- If your school has a Parents' Room/Lounge or Parent Center, drop in to meet other parents and teachers there, or to pick up information and materials.
- Participate in workshops that are offered, such as those on child development or concerns that parents have (or help plan such workshops).
- Take advantage of parent-teacher contracts (perhaps agreeing to read with your child for a certain amount of time each night).
- Ask your child's teacher if he or she has materials that you can use to help your child at home and to supplement homework.
- Be part of decision-making committees about school issues and problems, such as a Parent Advisory Committee. (California Parent Center, 2009).

Middle School

- Attend school-related events (i.e. back to school night, parent-teacher conferences, open house, district-sponsored parental workshops, PTA/PTO meetings sporting events, etc.)
- Volunteer in the school or in the classroom or in the different school offices.
- Support school's fundraising efforts.
- Share potential community resources or contacts with school staff.
- If your school has a Parents' Room/Lounge or Parent Center, drop in to meet other parents and teachers there, or to pick up information and materials.

- Be part of decision-making committees about school issues and problems, such as a Parent Advisory Committee. (California Parent Center, 2009).

High School

- Attend school-related events (i.e. back to school night, open house, district-sponsored parental workshops, PTA/PTO meetings, college nights, performances, sporting events etc.)
- If your school has a Parents' Room/Lounge or Parent Center, drop in to meet other parents and teachers there, or to pick up information and materials.
- Visit higher education campuses with your child.
- Support school's fundraising efforts.
- Share potential in-kind community resources or contacts with school staff.
- Meet with your child's counselor and discuss higher education options.
- Be part of decision-making committees about school issues and problems, such as a Parent Advisory Committee (California Parent Center, 2009).

Share your personal effective approaches to building effective home-school connections through participation via email to svelasco@lbschools.net or drop your ideas at any of the three District Parent Resource Centers!

Sandra J. Velasco
District Parent Center Coordinator
November-December 2009