

Quick Tips: Collaborating with Community



- Work with community agencies or institutions such as libraries, housing projects, tribal agencies, etc., to set up out-of-school programs and homework /tutoring centers for children and teens.
- Review the Reflection Rubric for Collaborating with Community included in the Resources Toolkit with a team to review strengths and needs.
- Visit key websites included in the Toolkit for Parents and Family Members such as Pull Together.org and other useful resources for families in New Mexico
- Review your school website and consider ways to improve and update it with useful resources for families in your school community.
- Work with families and community leaders to ask, what is the self- interest of the families and what are the things that they value related to their culture, language, the education of their children, and safety?
- Consider services that community agencies can provide in schools such as:
 - Health care, dental treatment, family planning, etc.
 - Counseling, mental health services, and crisis intervention
 - ESL and other programs to teach English
 - Adult education, GED classes, and computer training
 - Job training and referrals
 - Housing assistance, food banks, clothing banks
 - Recreation, sports and cultural activities
 - Mentoring and tutoring
 - Child care
- Invite community business members to share information about careers and to serve on school committees.
- Provide opportunities for students, school staff, and families to serve their community (recycling, art, music, drama, environmental projects, etc.)
- Request participation in events held in community locations such as chapter houses, churches, community centers, businesses, and organizations.
- Actively recruit and engage parents in developing and supporting district and school wide policies and improvement plans such as the Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS), parent advisory committees, Title I, Bilingual Education, and Indian Education parental involvement requirements.

- Publicize successful changes in a school program as result of family and community engagement. Publicize in a variety of ways such as marquees, newsletters, Web sites, e-mail, texts, calls, and at events.
- Incorporate community service projects into the curriculum and instruction.
- Work with parent groups, parent leaders, and community members to organize health fairs, college prep fairs, and other events that provide active participation of students and families, school staff, and community members.
- Include businesses, seniors, and all members of the community in the list of recipients of newsletters (Web-based and paper), announcements and upcoming events and news.
- Work with the community to provide a resource directory and one-stop shopping for family services through partnerships of school, counseling, health, recreation, job training, adult education, and other service agencies.
- Engage in professional development opportunities to support sustainable initiatives that build capacity among bilingual educators and families to partner together around student success.