

Quick Tips: Practices for Welcoming All Families



- 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, and on staff hiring committees.
- Complete the Family-Friendly School Walkthrough Checklist with a team. The best way to nurture a strong relationship between school and family is to create a friendly and welcoming environment. It helps to identify areas that may have been overlooked and can be easily addressed.
- Treat parent concerns, suggestions and ideas with respect and demonstrate genuine interest in developing solutions. Create and adhere a policy to always follow up with families in a timely manner (within 24 hours).
- Share the school and district annual reports of overall student and school achievement, school programs, and other initiatives with families. Use open meetings, events, Web sites and newsletters, etc. to create safe opportunities for families to ask questions and provide input.
- Include parent leaders from all racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and other groups on advisory councils, action teams, and committees. Include student representatives in elementary, middle, and high schools along with parents on committees.
- Encourage and facilitate parent participation in PTA or other parent organizations, advisory councils or committees for parent leadership and participation.
- Provide parents with user-friendly information for voting in local, state, and federal elections on officials and issues that affect education.
- Ensure professional development for all school staff, including office staff, food services staff, and custodial staff, and transportation on effective family engagement practices.

