



Did you know?

According to Henderson et al. (2007) in *Beyond the Bake Sale*, "Most families want schools to be a place where people treat each other courteously and where the rules are agreed on, well understood, and fairly enforced." Research shows that parents appreciate the ability to give input on school rules and discipline policies. If the school proactively involves parents in their policy more, instead of waiting for discussions to come up under more hostile encounters with staff, it helps to build parent trust and form more cohesive relationships between parents and their child's school.



How to Help? Ask the Parents!

Finding it hard to get started with parent involvement in your school? A simple parent survey might help give you the info needed to raise involvement in your school. The following offers ideas for potential parent involvement survey questions:



1. Would you benefit from a parent workshop or after-school program aimed at helping your student learn at home?

Hosting parent workgroups that give helpful suggestions on working with their students allow parents a chance to become more active participants in their child's education.

2. Would you benefit from a parent material loan program that would send home educational materials, DVDs, and more to help you work with your student on his or her educational goals?

Programs that lend educational materials such as books, DVDs, computers and other educational tools give parents who may not otherwise be able to afford or access such items the tools needed to work on their child's education at home.

3. For preschool/elementary school: Do you think you would benefit from quarterly home visits?

Research has shown that home visits for these age groups have been significant in setting the stage for parents as partners in their child's education.

4. For high school: Do you think you would benefit from taking school-organized field trips with your student to local college campuses and technical schools?

Past surveys have shown that parents appreciate the opportunity to go as a group to visit local post-secondary education institutions with their child's current teachers and this aids teachers in working with parents toward a child's transition goals.

5. What times would be most convenient for holding parent-centered educational activities and events?

Seems simple, but being able to accommodate the schedule of the majority of parents for any involvement function ensures higher participation rates and, as a result, bigger impact.



For More Information

For more ideas on how to raise parent involvement, dese.mo.gov/se/se-ep-parentinvolvement.htm offers parent involvement strategies including parent and educator resource toolkits, parent involvement models of success, helpful links and more!

