

Family, School, and Community Connections:
Enhancing Engagement Efforts for Greater Student
Outcomes

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SPAC

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PaTTAN's Mission

The mission of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) is to support the efforts and initiatives of the Bureau of Special Education, and to build the capacity of local educational agencies to serve students who receive special education services.

PDE's Commitment to Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Our goal for each child is to ensure Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams begin with the general education setting with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services before considering a more restrictive environment.

Family, School, and Community

Family

All the persons living together in one household

School

An institution for the education of children

Community

A particular area or place considered together with its inhabitants

What is Engagement?

The feeling of being involved in a particular activity.



In what ways do you feel **engaged** at your child's school and within the community you reside?



A Review of PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



The updated National Standards for Family-School Partnerships shift the focus from what schools **should do** to involve parents to what parents, schools, and communities **can do** together to support student success.

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community

Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 2: Communicating effectively

Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 3: Supporting student success

Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child

Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 5: Sharing power

Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 6: Collaborating with community

Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

The Positive Relationship Between Family Involvement and Student Success

A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement,

Anne T. Henderson and Karen L. Mapp conclude that there is a **positive** and **convincing** relationship between family involvement and student success, regardless of race/ethnicity, class, or parents' level of education differences.

The Positive Relationship Between Family Involvement and Student Success

- When families are involved in their children's learning both at home and at school, their children do better in school.
- The report also points to specific **types of involvement** as being especially beneficial to children's academic success.

Finding I

Involvement programs that link to learning improve student achievement.

The more parent and community involvement activities focus on improving student learning, the more student learning improves.

Activities to Consider

Learning-focused involvement activities may include

- Family nights on math or literacy.
- Family-teacher conferences that involve students.
- Family workshops on planning for college.

Finding 2

Speaking up for children protects and promotes their success.

Children whose parents are advocates for them at school are more confident at school and take on and achieve more.

Finding 2

- Become knowledgeable about the operations of schools and the laws that govern those operations.
- Be confident about their ability to work with schools.
