

## Family, School and Community Partnerships

There are many reasons to build a strong partnership between the home, the community, and the school. Forming a partnership will improve school programs and school climate. Schools can help provide family services and support, increase parents' skills and leadership, and connect families with school staff and with other parents. The most important reason for creating partnerships is to help students succeed in school and later in life.

### Why is Family Involvement Important?

It works because family involvement positively effects a child's:

- FamiliesAcademic achievement
- Behavior in school
- Attitudes about school and work
- Grades
- Scores on standardized tests
- Attendance
- Homework completion

It is the right thing to do:

- Allows teachers to explain curriculum, standards, and high stakes testing
- Connect what children learn at school with learning at home
- Provide tools, training and activities on how families can work with their children at home

It is required by legislation:

- 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- Federal funds made available and Title I enacted into law
- 1994 Goals 2000: Educate America Act
- Schools will promote partnerships with parents
- 1997 National PTA adopts Epstein's 6 Types of Involvement as national standards

### **Epstein's Six Keys**

The overall importance of parent and family involvement as the foundation for all other education reforms warranted the establishment of national standards to guide parent involvement programs and evaluate their quality and effectiveness. The National Standards for Parent/ Family Involvement Programs were developed in 1998 by the National PTA in cooperation with education and parent involvement professionals and through the National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education

(NCPIE). These standards were built upon the six keys of parent involvement identified by Dr. Joyce Epstein of the Center of School, Family, and Community Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University.

- 2001 No Child Left Behind
- Requirements for family involvement