

**"Supporting Latino Student Achievement Through
Strong Parent-School Relationships"**



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Research...

The research is abundantly clear: nothing motivates a child more than when learning is valued by schools and families/community working together in partnership... These forms of (parent) involvement do not happen by accident or even by invitation. They happen by explicit strategies invitation.

-Michel Fullan (1997)

Research

- To educate children without a deep partnership of teacher and parent is hopeless.

- _Patrick Dolan, (1994)

Benefits...

- Higher grades and test scores
- Better attendance and more homework completed
- Fewer placement in special education
- More positive attitudes and behavior
- Higher graduation rates
- Greater enrollment in post-secondary education

(Clark, R, 1993; Griffith, J.,1996; Dauber, S.L. & Epstein J.L., 1993)

Before...

- Students...
- Lets talk about the FAMILY...
- Dr. Mendoza
 - Culture... as behaviors and not as biological characteristics.
- Behaviors Learned at home...
- Language..
- Food...
- Symbols...

Morrison...

- First generation...retains the culture
- Second generations...resistant of the culture
- Third generation... rediscover the culture
- Fourth generation... acculturation.

What we have in common...

- Study from UCLA on Successful Latinos....
 1. Support of the family
 2. Self-respect
 3. Good friends
 4. Goal
 5. English

Critical Elements

I. Communication

II. Parenting

III. Student Learning

IV. Volunteering

**V. School Decision-making and
advocacy**

VI. Collaboration with the Community

I. Communication..

Two-way meaningful

Communication between the home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.

- Expectations
- Home visits
- Trust
- Events
- Curriculum
- The right questions

II. Parenting

Parenting skills are promoted and supported.

- Educational Systems
- Family Cultural Values
- Family Empowerment

III. Student Learning

Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.

- Active family participation
- Curriculum guide:
 - Math
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Social Studies
 - Science...
- Setting Goals

IV. Volunteering

Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.

- **Confidence**
- **Knowledge**
- **"Traditionally, educators count the number of parents at PTA / PTO / PAC meetings and dollars earned at bake sales and come up with an equation for parent involvement"**

- **-Tellin' Stories Project Action Research Group 2000**

V. School Decision-making and advocacy

- Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect their children.
- Mutual respect/Know each other.
- Inform parents of local, state, or national issues that impact education.
- Advise parents of changes in programs, policies, and procedures that have been made as a result of parental input or involvement.
- Parents are more likely to feel ownership in a school and its programs when they have a voice in key decisions.

VI. Collaboration with the Community

- Coordinate and distribute information regarding cultural, recreational, academic health, social, and other resources for families in the community.
- Work with the community partners to organize special programs and events.
- Provide businesses with access to school facilities, personal and students.

So...

- Schools that function as **learning communities** will recognize the **power** of an **effective** partnership with parents and will **develop** specific **strategies** to create that **partnership**.

Thank you!

