

## Improving Parent Involvement: Ideas for School Leaders and Staff

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Provide staff training and support for parent involvement.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Share research findings. Use these findings to develop ideas the whole school or individuals can implement.</li> <li>▪ Spotlight successful staff practices that are increasing parent involvement and ask those staff members to share their successes during professional development.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Help parents understand why they are so important to their children's school success.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Include in each monthly newsletter short summaries of studies that show the deep influence that parents have on their children's learning. Give examples of how parents might model specific behaviors that their children are likely to replicate – e.g. silent reading, good listening practices, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Survey parents to find out what their primary needs are as parents.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Send home a survey to find out parents' top concerns and questions.</li> <li>▪ Find out the most important topics parents' want to learn more about – e.g. standards, test scores, budget expenditures, discipline and other policies.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Collaboratively design a parent training and support program based on the survey findings.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with parents to establish a parent training of trainer program that builds the capacity of parents to co-facilitate their trainings and workshops.</li> <li>▪ Design and implement a series of trainings and workshops that address parents' priority concerns, questions, and topics. Encourage parents to serve as co-facilitators of workshops that interest them the most.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Encourage and support Classroom Parent Clubs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide the support and resources to enable each teacher to convene a Classroom Parent Club that meets regularly throughout the school year.</li> <li>▪ Classroom Parent Club meetings are opportunities for parents to learn about the current and upcoming grade level curriculum focus areas, the specific learning standards students are expected to master, the teaching strategies and assessments the teacher will use.</li> <li>▪ Parent Clubs provide a way for parents to talk to the teacher about what they are already doing to support their children's learning and to get fresh support ideas from each other and the teacher.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Include parents as members of the school leadership team.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recruit parents to serve as members of the school leadership team. Involve the parents in your school's continuous improvement planning and decision-making.</li> <li>▪ Ensure that parents are involved in monitoring the implementation of the school plan, assessing progress, and analyzing results.</li> <li>▪ Include parents in establishing the school budget, raising funds, securing grants, etc.</li> <li>▪ Ensure that all parents are kept informed of the leadership team actions and know to provide input through the parent members of the leadership team.</li> </ul>