

TeachME Professional Development

Fostering Meaningful Relationships Between Schools and Parents

1. Research is newly telling us that perhaps the most influential factor in a student's achievement levels at school is:

- A. Their location
 - B. Their family's income levels
 - C. Their parent's educational levels
 - D. Their parent's involvement in their education
-

2. When parents are surveyed to learn what their primary rationale for not being involved with their child's education, what's the most common response?

- A. Not enough time
 - B. Not enough interest
 - C. Uncomfortable with school
 - D. Not enough information
-

3. What is the most effective first step for schools to encourage diverse families to take practical steps to support their own children's education?

- A. Ask them why they're not supporting their children
 - B. Recognize and work to meet the needs they have as a family
 - C. Present yourself as an authoritative resource
 - D. Email them updates about their child's progress
-

4. What is the primary difference between parent engagement and parent involvement?

- A. There is no difference
 - B. Parent involvement happens only on school grounds
 - C. Parent involvement stems from the teacher; parent engagement stems from the parent
 - D. Parent involvement stems from the parent; parent engagement stems from the teacher
-

5. What is one practical benefit of parental involvement for the parents - not necessarily the students?

- A. Parents can consider this a networking opportunity.
- B. Parents can get out of the house more.
- C. Parental involvement has no benefits for the parent.

D. Parents feel happier about their educational choices regarding their family.

6. If a parent cites a lack of time as a reason that they cannot engage more in school activities, what is one possible way to respond?

- A. Listening - then proposing childcare or other solutions to meet the parent's need
 - B. Suggesting the parent quit their job
 - C. Asking to review the parent's time management strategy
 - D. Listening, and then offering up no solution, because that's not your place.
-

7. Which of these is not an effective method for boosting parental engagement?

- A. Complimenting the parents for their current level of involvement
 - B. Penalizing the parents for their lack of involvement
 - C. Being transparent about your purpose
 - D. Being consistent
-

8. Which of these is not an example of parental involvement or engagement?

- A. Parents talking to children about their educational goals
 - B. Parents volunteering at school
 - C. Parents and teachers connecting at school meetings
 - D. Parents completing school projects for their children
-

9. In surveys completed to learn more about parent communication preferences, researchers learned that a growing percentage of parents prefer what type of communication about their students?

- A. Weekly text updates about their child's progress
 - B. Daily emails about their child's progress
 - C. Monthly calls about their child's progress
 - D. Weekly video calls about their child's progress
-

10. One study completed recently learned that one state's educational outreach had one major flaw. What was it?

- A. It hadn't been updated in a decade
 - B. Their outreach was targeting solely affluent two-parent households
 - C. The plan did not include recommendations for digital, internet-age communication solutions
 - D. They didn't have a parent outreach program
-

11. Sometimes, simplest is best. Which of these is likely the easiest way to get parents to show up to school events?

- A. Offer free childcare and food.
 - B. Hold the events in the morning.
 - C. Bring the meetings to them - make them all Zoom calls.
 - D. Threaten their child's educational opportunities.
-

12. Why might partnering with other schools in your area be a good strategy to get more parents involved?

- A. This is not a good idea
 - B. You can take the focus off issues at your own school
 - C. If your school doesn't host the gathering, you don't have to clean up afterward.
 - D. More people involved gets the word out faster - plus, it's an exciting community-building opportunity.
-

13. If you're having trouble engaging a parent in a difficult, problem-solving conversation regarding their child, what might be a good initial strategy?

- A. Take steps to identify the actual problem first.
 - B. Ask your school's administration to step in.
 - C. Diffuse the tense conversation with a joke.
 - D. Become defensive about your outreach strategies.
-

14. Which is the best way to prompt ongoing attendance by parents at school functions?

- A. Offer high-value entertainment or education at these events (e.g., parenting classes or boundary workshops)
 - B. Ask them to bring their children
 - C. Make all of the meetings remote (e.g., Zoom calls)
 - D. There is no effective way to boost parental attendance at school functions
-

15. A study performed in Chicago found that students with high levels of parent engagement were ___ times more likely to show improvement towards their math initiatives.

- A. 2
 - B. 5
 - C. 10
 - D. 15
-

16. What is one of the easiest ways to personalize messages for many different families during your limited communication time as a teacher?

- A. Enlist your class to help you hand-address postcards.
- B. Lean on video messaging - it's interactive and more engaging than an email, and quick with the help of a digital messaging platform.
- C. Stay after school to call every parent in your class on a regular basis.

D. Simply make sure to text every parent, every day, with a little positive update about their child.

17. When engaging with parents in a remote learning scenario, what's the first step for beneficial initial outreach?

- A. Provide parents with practical resources to solve their remote learning frustrations.
 - B. Schedule an additional Zoom call to educate the parents on your education aims.
 - C. Perform a home visit to onboard them efficiently.
 - D. Make sure that the students are entirely self-sufficient in a remote learning scenario.
-

18. If a parent has unpleasant memories of their own education serving as baggage that's affecting their ability to support their children, how might you respond?

- A. Referring them to a therapist
 - B. Being upbeat and positive about their child's existing progress and the parent's current support
 - C. Tactfully refraining from being upbeat and positive about their child's progress
 - D. Working through the parent's experiences with them yourself to clear the air
-

19. Which is better for fostering parent-teacher relationships: One- or two-way communication (and why)?

- A. One-way communication: It keeps things efficient
 - B. One-way communication: It allows you to stay on message
 - C. Two-way communication: It allows the teacher to say twice as much
 - D. Two-way communication: It allows the parent to feel heard and provide valuable feedback
-

20. Which of these is not a material benefit - for the student - of a strong parent-teacher bond and increased parent engagement?

- A. Fewer social media distractions
 - B. Better classroom behavior
 - C. Better social skills
 - D. Higher grades
-