

# National Standards, Goals, and Indicators 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.

**Goal 1: Creating a Welcoming Climate:** When families walk into the building, do they feel the school is inviting and is a place where they “belong”?

- ❖ Developing personal relationships
- ❖ Creating a family-friendly atmosphere
- ❖ Providing opportunities for volunteering

**Goal 2: Building a Respectful, Inclusive School Community:** Do the school's policies and programs reflect, respect, and value the diversity of the families in the community?

- ❖ Respecting all families
- ❖ Removing economic obstacles to participation
- ❖ Ensuring accessible programming

## **Standard 2—Communicating Effectively**

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

**Goal 1: Sharing Information Between School and Families:** Does the school keep all families informed about important issues and events and make it easy for families to communicate with teachers?

- ❖ Using multiple communication paths
- ❖ Surveying families to identify issues and concerns
- ❖ Having access to the principal
- ❖ Providing information on current issues
- ❖ Facilitating connections among families

## National Standards, Goals, and Indicators for Family-School Partnerships, continued

### **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.

**Goal 1: Sharing Information About Student Progress:** Do families know and understand how well their children are succeeding in school and how well the entire school is progressing?

- ❖ Ensuring parent-teacher communication about student progress
- ❖ Linking student work to academic standards
- ❖ Using standardized test results to increase achievement
- ❖ Sharing school progress

**Goal 2: Supporting Learning by Engaging Families:** Are families active participants in their children's learning at home and at school?

- ❖ Engaging families in classroom learning
- ❖ Developing family ability to strengthen learning at home
- ❖ Promoting after-school learning

### **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.

**Goal 1: Understanding How the School System Works:** Do parents know how the local school and district operate and how to raise questions or concerns about school and district programs, policies, and activities? Do they understand their rights and responsibilities under federal and state law as well as local ordinances and policies?

- ❖ Understanding how the school and district operate
- ❖ Understanding rights and responsibilities under federal and state laws
- ❖ Learning about resources
- ❖ Resolving problems and conflicts

**Goal 2: Empowering Families to Support Their Own and Other Children's Success in School:** Are parents prepared to monitor students' progress and guide them toward their goals through high school graduation, postsecondary education, and a career?

- ❖ Developing families' capacity to be effective advocates
- ❖ Planning for the future
- ❖ Smoothing transitions
- ❖ Engaging in civic advocacy for student achievement

## National Standards, Goals, and Indicators for Family-School Partnerships, *continued*

### **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.

**Goal 1: Strengthening the Family's Voice in Shared Decision Making:** Are all families full partners in making decisions that affect their children at school and in the community?

- ❖ Having a voice in all decisions that affect children
- ❖ Addressing equity issues
- ❖ Developing parent leadership

**Goal 2: Building Families' Social and Political Connections:** Do families have a strong, broad-based organization that offers regular opportunities to develop relationships and raise concerns with school leaders, public officials, and business and community leaders?

- ❖ Connecting families to local officials
- ❖ Developing an effective parent involvement organization that represents all families

### **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.

**Goal 1: Connecting the School with Community Resources:** Do parent and school leaders work closely with community organizations, businesses, and institutions of higher education to strengthen the school, make resources available to students, school staff, and families, and build a family-friendly community?

- ❖ Linking to community resources
- ❖ Organizing support from community partners
- ❖ Turning the school into a hub of community life
- ❖ Partnering with community groups to strengthen families and support student success

# The Power of Partnerships Family Survey

Dear Families,

The best way to make sure every student in our school succeeds is to build a strong partnership between families, the school, and the community. The survey below gives you the opportunity to tell us what our school is doing well to support this partnership and what we can do better.

If you would like to help tally and analyze the results, please let us know.

—The Family Involvement Action Team

<Provide the names and contact information of the team members here.>

## Welcoming All Families into the School Community

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1. When I walk into the school, I feel the school is inviting and that this is a place where parents "belong."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The school's policies and programs reflect, respect, and value the diversity of the families in the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Students at the school are treated fairly no matter what their race or cultural background.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I feel welcome at PTA/parent group meetings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Communicating Effectively

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
5. The school keeps all families informed about important issues and events.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The school makes it easy for families to communicate with teachers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The school communicates with families in multiple ways (e.g., e-mail, phone, website).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I can talk to the school principal when I need to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. My child's teacher communicates with me on a regular basis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. It's easy to get a translator if I need one.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## The Power of Partnerships Family Survey, continued

### Supporting Student Success

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
11. My child's teacher keeps me well informed about how my child is doing in school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. I understand the academic standards my child is supposed to meet and how the curriculum is linked to those standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. My child's teacher and the school give me useful information about how to improve my child's progress.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. All students are challenged to do their best.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Speaking Up for Every Child

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
15. If the school can't help me, they will connect me to someone who can.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. I understand the rules and requirements for student dress, language, and behavior.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. The school keeps me informed of my rights under federal and state laws and policies and helps me exercise those rights as needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. I feel empowered to advocate for my own child's and other children's success in school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Sharing Power

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
19. The school consults with me and other families before making important decisions (e.g., changes in curriculum, school policies, dress code).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. The school provides opportunities for families to develop relationships and raise concerns with school leaders, public officials, and business and community leaders.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Collaborating with Community

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
21. The school connects students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and community improvement initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Your name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_