



# Did You Know...?

# #11

## What No Child Left Behind Says About Student Success and Parent Involvement

*Parents Reaching Out connects with families, schools and communities in New Mexico. We offer information from many reliable sources. We thank the Parent Education Network, a project of Parents Helping Parents of Wyoming, Inc. for permitting us to share their PEN Notes publications in this information series.*

### Parent involvement includes:

- Participation of parents in every aspect of education and development of the child from birth to adulthood
- Responsibilities in decisions about children's education, health and well being, and participation in organizations that reflect the community's collaborative ideas for all children

### Why parent involvement?



Parent involvement of most any kind increases student achievement and self-esteem. Programs designed with strong parent involvement produce students who perform better than identical programs without parent involvement. Schools that relate well to their communities have student bodies that out-perform other schools. Students who are failing improve dramatically when parents are called in to help. Parent involvement also has positive results for parents, schools and community.

### Three Types of Parent Involvement:

1. As first educators in the home
2. As partners with the school
3. As advocates for all children and youth in a society

### “Givens” in parent involvement:

- All children can learn.
- Parents want the best for their children.
- Parents are a key resource in their children's education.
- Children's success is the main focus.
- School is not solely responsible for a child's academic achievement.

### Impact of parent involvement:

#### *On Students*

- Better attendance at school and school functions
- Higher grades over all
- Higher self-esteem at all levels
- Better communication skills
- More positive attitude
- Builds better communication skills between parents and students

#### *On Parents*

- Parents become more community minded
- Raise their own self-esteem
- Develop a more positive self-image
- Become more successful in housing, community and jobs

### *On Schools*

- Gather support for the schools
- Bring additional resources to school
- Have more positive attitude toward school
- Is most cost effective way to increase student achievement

### *On Teachers*

- Teachers rate parents as more helpful
- Student achievement increases
- Parents view teachers in a more positive light
- Teacher morale increases
- Teachers improve their teaching skills and report much greater job satisfaction

### *On Communities*

- Better educated residents
- Safer, more stable communities
- Thriving businesses and families
- Can attract new business and jobs
- Strong local economy
- Good quality of life and a bright future for everyone

#### **Remember:**

*Parents are their children's first teacher from birth through early adulthood. When children enter into school, parents continue to play a critical role in formal learning. A "parent" is any adult who plays an important role in a child's family life. Parents can include extended families, which may be: grandparents, foster parents, stepparents, aunts, uncles, guardians, etc.*

## **Why Schools Need Parent Involvement**

- Improves parent-child and school-community relationships
- Helps parents and the community develop positive attitudes toward school and promotes a better understanding of the schooling process
- Enhances child's self-esteem
- Students receive higher grades and higher test scores
- School programs are more successful
- Builds more effective schools
- Enhance the community's perception of the school
- Create higher community awareness and support for public schools



**Bottom Line:** Family involvement in education makes a positive difference in children's educational success. Supporting family involvement in education is a WIN/WIN situation for all shareholders, including community and religious groups, families, schools and employers.

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