

Improving Perception of Educational Quality

What this means: Families understand the components of a high-quality education and believe that their child's teachers and principal set high expectations and positive outcomes for their child. Families' perception that their child's school has high expectations and provides quality education will have a positive or negative effect on their relationship with the school. When schools communicate high expectations, provide information on how they are providing high-quality curriculum and instruction and offer intervention and promotion programs that meet their child's individual needs, families will have a positive perception of their child's school.



Sample Action Steps for Educational Quality

Universal Strategies (for all students and families)

- Teachers ask families about their child's strengths and talents in parent-teacher conferences.
- The school provides information to families on the school's curriculum and methods of instruction.
- Teachers communicate to families the high expectations they hold for their students.

Targeted Strategies (for some students and families)

- Families of children with academic or behavioral difficulties are notified of their child's challenges as they arise. Families are partners in developing their child's academic and behavior plans.
- Parents of junior high and high school students are included in the process of helping their child plan their classes so they are equipped to pursue their postsecondary goals.
- Families of gifted or advanced learners are provided information on school and community-based resources that will challenge and meet their child's learning potential

Intensive Strategies (for a few students and families)

- Families of gifted students, students with disabilities, LEP students and others are provided with information about their students' rights, their unique learning needs and how to best serve their needs in school.
- Families of students with disabilities are supported through the development of their child's IEP and fully included in the decisions made for their child. Parent Mentors are available to support parents.
- Families of students experiencing academic or behavioral difficulties are in continual contact with their child's teachers and support staff until their child's progress improves.
- Families are linked to community resources or alternative education programs for intensive support services.

Resources

Family Guides to Standards

Family Guides to Early Learning Content Standards at the preschool and kindergarten levels help parents understand what their children will be learning in school. By reading these guides, parents also can help reinforce what their children are learning so that they will feel more confident and successful in school. The Family Guides to Standards for grades Kindergarten through 8th-grade highlight what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade.

<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1696&ContentID=14936&Content=66487>

www.education.ohio.gov keyword: Standards Guides

Ohio Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC)

Ohio PIRC is a nonprofit parent information and resource center established in partnership with Every Child Succeeds, United Way 211 and Cincinnati Parents for Public Schools, and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement. Ohio PIRC provides parents, families, students, educators, and communities with information, resources and training as mandated by the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

<http://www.ohiopirc.org/>

The National Association for the Education of Young Children

NAEYC has resources to support families in their early childhood education and parenting needs, as well as how to select a high-quality early childhood program. The Web site also includes publications on parent-teacher relationships and taking an active part in advocating for quality early childhood education.

<http://www.naeyc.org/families>

Ohio Department of Education: Resources for Parents of Children with Special Needs and Talents

Families of Gifted student

<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?Page=2&TopicID=1537&TopicRelationID=1538>

www.education.ohio.gov keywords: *Families Gifted*

Families of Limited English Proficient students

<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?Page=2&TopicID=1540&TopicRelationID=1539>

www.education.ohio.gov keywords: *Families LEP*

Families of Students with Disabilities

<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?Page=2&TopicID=1539&TopicRelationID=1540>

www.education.ohio.gov keywords: *Families Disabilities*

Parent Academies

Parent Academies are free two-hour workshops for parents on topics that will help them support their child's learning and development. School districts, parent organizations and community groups can schedule trained facilitators through the Ohio Department of Education to conduct workshops that meet district and parent needs.

A Parent Academy that focuses on helping parents to understand academic content standards can be scheduled. Parent Academies also help families understand the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act* and what it means for their child, school and district. In this workshop, participants discuss Ohio's system of school accountability, benefits that may be offered to families under NCLB and the school improvement process.

<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=1532&Content=66290>

www.education.ohio.gov keywords: *Parent Academy*

State, Local District and School Report Cards and Resources

This Ohio Department of Education Web site allows parents to check school and district report cards and ratings, review historical data and make comparisons between districts of similar makeup. The most recent data available is from the 2007-2008 school year.

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationD=115&Content=72682>

www.education.ohio.gov keywords: *Report Card*

Example Parent Involvement Initiative

This article discusses a research-based method for obtaining parent involvement. It provides specific strategies relevant to teachers and what they can do to strengthen parent involvement.

http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/curr030.shtml

References

The following links provide insight into the variety of perceptions families have on what constitutes a good education for their child. The information may help teachers understand what they can do to improve families' perceptions about the quality of the education that they provide.

<http://www.schoolmatch.com/articles/as1990.htm>

<http://www.nber.org/digest/mar06/w11494.html>