

# Involving Families and the Community in Student Learning

**What this means:** Families and school staff collaborate continuously to support student and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively, learning and both at home and at school.

All families need assistance at some point in understanding how to best support their child's learning. Schools assist families by providing the information they need to understand what their child is learning and train them on how to help their child at home, when needed. Schools help families understand what they can do at home and what is available in the community to meet their child's learning and behavioral needs. Families are linked to community resources to support student learning outside of school. The focus is on student learning and resources are highlighted for participants at all school events, including fun events, sporting events, open houses, etc.

## Sample Action Steps for Supporting Student Academic Success

### Universal Strategies (for all students and families)

- Schools provide information on the standards and grade-level indicators at each grade.
- All families receive information on homework policies and how to monitor and support their child's school work at home.
- Families are provided with training on how to help their child improve his or her skills in math, reading, writing, studying, etc.
- Families help in setting student goals and preparing for the future.

### Targeted Strategies (for some students and families)

- Families receive specific information about their child's unique academic or behavioral needs and how they can assist their child at home.
- Schools share information about school- or community-based academic supports (i.e. tutoring, mentoring, intervention programs).
- Families of high school students are offered guidance and support for participating in planning for their child's transition to work or college.

### Intensive Strategies (for a few students and families)

- Families receive all of the targeted and universal services and more intensive assistance for supporting their child's unique needs.
- Schools link with after school programs and alternative education programs to provide credit recovery, tutoring, computer-based courses and other educational options for students.

## Resources

### ***Family Guides to Standards***

*Family Guides to Early Learning Content Standards* at the pre-school and kindergarten levels help parents understand what their children will be learning in school. These guides explain how parents 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 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](http://www.education.ohio.gov) keywords: *Standards Guides*

### ***Preschool Learning Guide for Families: Preparing for Kindergarten Success***

Designed for families of children from ages 3 to the start of kindergarten. This brochure explains standards-based education and ways families can help their children in reading, mathematics, social studies and science as a preparation for kindergarten. The guide also includes suggestions for how children can learn through routine family activities.

<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=761&ContentID=45158&Content=65997>

[www.education.ohio.gov](http://www.education.ohio.gov) keywords: *Early Learning Guides*

### ***Helping Your Child Series of the U. S. Department of Education***

*The Helping Your Child* series provides parents with the tools and information they need to help their children succeed in school and in life. These booklets feature practical lessons and activities to help their school-aged and preschool children master reading, understand the value of homework and develop the skills and values necessary to achieve and grow.

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html>

### ***National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS): Learning at Home***

The NNPS offers a handbook, training and support for implementation of Epstein's *Six Types of Parent Involvement*. Student learning is highlighted as the fourth "type." The Web site offers examples of learning at home, challenges and redefinitions.

[http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/nnps\\_model/school/sixtypes/type4.htm](http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/nnps_model/school/sixtypes/type4.htm)

### ***Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork (TIPS) Interactive Homework***

TIPS Interactive Homework is a research-based approach to increase family involvement in students' education. This approach helps teachers develop homework that requires students to interact with family members in subjects such as language arts, science and math.

<http://www.csos.jhu.edu/P2000/tips/subject.htm>

### ***Parent Academy- Academic Content Standards***

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 is available.

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

[www.education.ohio.gov](http://www.education.ohio.gov) keywords: Parent Academy

### **Web sites**

Ohio Department of Education, *Getting Involved in your Child's Learning*

<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=245>

[www.education.ohio.gov](http://www.education.ohio.gov) keywords: *Getting Involved*

### **Evidence-Based Programs**

Click [\*here\*](#) to link to evidence-based programs that include family involvement strategies in addressing student learning.