



Strengthening Family-Teacher Partnerships: A Reference Guide for Educators

Family engagement matters for student success. Students with engaged families have higher achievement and graduation rates and fewer discipline issues. Teachers who prioritize engaging families are also better able to differentiate their instruction, feel more supported and satisfied with their job, and ultimately make a bigger difference in the lives of their students. There are many barriers that make it challenging for families to be engaged, but as a teacher, you play a critical role in facilitating family-school partnerships.

The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships highlight the key tenets of effective family engagement practices that support student success and well-being.

Read on to learn how you can put the National Standards into action in your work. For more resources, visit [PTA.org/Standards](https://www.pta.org/Standards).



Welcome All Families

- ✓ Send a welcoming note to families before the start of the school year
- ✓ Have families fill out a “get to know you” form to learn about their family structure, more about their child and their strengths
- ✓ Provide literature, resources and learning opportunities that reflect your students’ lived experiences
- ✓ Create ample opportunities for families to meet with you and visit the classroom to see learning in action

Communicate Effectively

- ✓ Ask families how they prefer to be contacted (e.g., email, text, call, at pick up, etc.)
- ✓ Share updates about students’ learning and progress proactively (not just at parent-teacher conferences)
- ✓ Avoid using acronyms or educational jargon when talking to families
- ✓ Help secure translation and interpretation services for families that need it

in partnership with



A Union of Professionals

Support Student Success

- ✓ Collaborate with families to create shared goals for their child and keep families updated on progress
- ✓ Share a variety of student work with families (e.g., classwork, rubrics, observations, benchmark assessments) to illustrate how the student is performing
- ✓ Teach families activities they can do at home to support their children’s skill development
- ✓ Support families in planning for their children’s future (e.g., course selection, college and career planning, etc.)

Speak Up for Every Child

- ✓ Tell families where they can go and who they can talk to when they have specific questions or issues (e.g., the school counselor, the principal, the ELL coordinator, etc.)
- ✓ Help families understand their rights under federal and state law (e.g., translation/interpretation or related to IEPs and 504s)
- ✓ Connect families to resources that are available to support them and their children (e.g., tutoring, family literacy programs, etc.)

Share Power

- ✓ Collaborate with families to problem solve when challenges occur with their children
- ✓ Engage families around decisions that affect their kids (e.g., academic interventions, mental health supports, etc.)
- ✓ Connect families to platforms where they can participate in school decision-making (e.g., PTA, advisory committees, etc.)

Collaborate with Community

- ✓ Connect families to community resources to assist with basic needs (e.g., food, housing, technology, etc.)
- ✓ Make learning relevant by incorporating real community issues
- ✓ Participate in field trips—or bring community organizations to the school—to help students feel connected to the community

Explore more resources at [PTA.org/Standards](https://www.pta.org/standards) or scan the QR code below!



National Standards *for* _____
FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

