

Bridging Race, Income and Cultural Differences to Support Student Success



Our Goals

- Examine the impact of race, income and culture on parent involvement
- Explore opportunities to apply PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships to support success in school, regardless of race, income or culture



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Overall Finding from the Research

- -
- When families are involved
at home and at school,
children do better in school.



Different Doesn't Mean Deficient

Parents of diverse backgrounds:

- May not realize the importance of their role in their child's education
- May be overwhelmed by trying to meet the basic needs of their family
- May have had a negative school experience
- May feel intimidated by school personnel or the school environment



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Key Challenges to Addressing Differences

- Improving student performance
- Addressing racial tensions and bias
- Dealing with differences of class



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Improving Student Performance

1. Recognize, learn about and affirm all cultures in the school
2. Connect families' cultures to what students are learning
3. Recognize and support different forms of parent involvement
4. Address language barriers



Addressing Racial Tensions and Bias

1. Use the power of the school to promote positive relations and open dialogue
2. Raise expectations for children and families
3. Get to know the community and identify its assets



Dealing with Differences of Income

- Respond to unequal resources
- Build trust by making the rules together
- Avoid parent “cliques”; make *all* parents feel welcome



National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



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Standard 1

Welcoming All Families

Goal 1: Creating a Welcoming Climate

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

Goal 2: Building a Respectful, Inclusive School Community

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



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Standard 2

Communicating Effectively

Goal 1: Sharing Information Between School and Families

- 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



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Standard 3

Supporting Student Success

Goal 1: Sharing Information About Student Progress

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

Goal 2: Supporting Learning by Engaging Families

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



Standard 4

Speaking Up for Every Child

Goal 1: Understanding How the School System Works

- 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

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



Standard 5

Sharing Power

Goal 1: Strengthening the Family's Voice in Shared Decision Making

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

Goal 2: Building Families' Social and Political Connections

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



Standard 6

Collaborating with Community

Goal 1: Connecting the School with Community Resources

- 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



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PTA's Commitment

We believe making
every child's potential a reality
is the best investment
of time and energy
your school community can make.



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