



The *Parents as Equal Partners in the Education of their Children* Resolution, adopted by the Board of Education in December of 2010, led to a series of recommendations for implementation at school sites. The Task Force on *Parents as Equal Partners* stated that “meaningful parent engagement is when schools see parents as equal partners in promoting student achievement and recognize parents’ talents and skills as resources to promote children’s educational development.” A review of decades of research conducted in support of this resolution indicates that when parents are involved, students have

- ✓ **Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates**
- ✓ **Better school attendance**
- ✓ **Increased motivation and better self-esteem**
- ✓ **Lower rates of suspension**
- ✓ **Decreased use of drugs and alcohol**
- ✓ **Fewer instances of violent behavior**

In addition, through authentic partnerships with parents, schools gain

- ✓ **Improved teacher morale**
- ✓ **Higher ratings of teachers by parents**
- ✓ **More support from families**
- ✓ **Higher student achievement**
- ✓ **A better reputation in the community**

Goals for parent engagement are aligned to the mandates of No Child Left Behind (2001), the Parent as Equal Partners Task Force Recommendations (2011), and the California Department of Education Family Engagement Framework (2011). These goals and indicators provide guidance to schools in developing and implementing effective parental involvement policies and practices that yield higher levels of student academic success.

## **School Goals for Parent Engagement**

- 1. Provide a welcoming environment for families and invite them to participate as equal partners in the education of their children.**
  - Staff ensures every interaction and engagement with parents is positive and valuable
  - Communication with parents is timely, is provided through a variety of print and other media, and is in a language parents understand
  - The school environment is clean and attractive and signage is available to help parents navigate the school campus
  - Parents know and understand the process for them to communicate with school personnel
  - Teachers invite parents to visit their classrooms, to volunteer, and to share valuable information about their child’s learning
  - School staff and parents collaborate to ensure mutual support for each other’s roles as partners

- 2. Provide parents opportunities to acquire necessary information, knowledge, and skills to support their children's education at home and at school.**
  - A school Family Action Team (FAT) guides all efforts to implement an effective plan for family engagement
  - Parent center staff and members of the FAT receive training and support to carry out their role
  - Parents participate in parent education classes to strengthen their capacity to support learning at home
  - Parent center facilities and equipment/technology are adequate to support parent and community engagement activities
  - Partnerships with community organizations provide resources for parent engagement and wrap-around resources for their families
  
- 3. Engage parents in the school's volunteer program so they can participate in supporting school-wide, classroom, and parent involvement activities.**
  - A staff person is designated to coordinate the school volunteer program
  - All parents are invited to join and participate in the school volunteer program
  - Training is provided for volunteers based on their assignment and need
  - Volunteers support teachers in the classroom as well as school-wide activities
  - The school annually assesses the impact of the volunteer program on school operations, school climate, and student performance
  
- 4. Respond to parent concerns and/or complaints to ensure child's educational needs are met.**
  - Parents and staff are knowledgeable about the Parents' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, and these are posted in key areas of the campus
  - Rights of parents and children are respected and communicated to promote trust
  - Staff is respectful and informative in interactions with parents
  - Resolution of parent concerns is timely and supportive of student learning
  - The school has a defined process for parents to express their concerns or complaints
  - Schools follow these protocols in a fair and consistent manner
  
- 5. Comply with all LAUSD, State, and Federal requirements regarding parent involvement.**
  - School staff and parents know the requirements and mandates of the following:
    - ✓ ESSA, the school and District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact
    - ✓ CDE requirements for operation of SSCs and English Learner Advisory Committees
    - ✓ LAUSD *Parents as Equal Partners* Resolution and Taskforce recommendations, including development of school action teams, partnerships for wrap-around services in parent centers, and a plan for parent involvement
    - ✓ Local Control and Accountability Plan's goal for Parent, Student and Community Engagement
  - Implementation of requirements are monitored for fidelity and quality
  - Parents/staff know their rights under the Uniform Complaint Procedure (UCP)
  - UCPs are minimal or non-existent