



Parent & Community Support

The active involvement of parents in their children's learning is something over which the school has limited influence. Parent involvement makes an enormous positive difference in children's school performance. The following is a list of validated practices for engaging and working with parent and community members (Cotton, 2000).

- Conducting vigorous outreach activities, especially in culturally diverse school settings, to involve parent and community representatives from all cultural groups in the community
- Developing written policies which acknowledge the importance of parent/community involvement and providing ongoing support to parent involvement efforts
- Making special efforts to involve the parents of economically disadvantaged, racial/ethnic minority, and language minority students, who tend to be underrepresented among parents involved in the schools
- Working with cultural minority parents and community members to help children cope with any differences in norms noted between the home and the school
- Communicating repeatedly to parents that their involvement can greatly enhance their children's school performance
- Making parents of young children aware that the earlier they become involved in their child's education, the more it benefits his or her learning
- Communicating to parents that students *of all ages* benefit from parent involvement
- Encouraging parents of young children to read to them, every day if possible, for at least 10 minutes at a time
- Sending home to parents information about upcoming classroom activities, examples of students' work, and suggestions for at-home learning activities
- Offering parents different parent involvement options to choose from based on their schedules and interests; for example, helping their children learn at home, helping out in the classroom, and assisting with field trips
- Involving community members in school-wide and classroom activities, giving presentations, serving as information resources, and serving as reader/responders for students' published writings
- Encouraging parents to provide a suitable place with necessary materials for children to study at home and to monitor the homework habits of children at least through the elementary grades
- Publishing indicators of school quality and providing them to parents and community members periodically to foster communication and stimulate public action.
- Involving community members in strategic planning for the school.

THE TULSA MODEL
Parent and Community Involvement
Rubric for Assessment

	Stage 1	Stage 2 (Incorporates Stage 1)	Stage 3 (Incorporates Stages 1 and 2)
Parent/ Community Involvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teachers and students communicate with parents about what students are learning, including the use of online tools. 2. Students invite their parents to attend learning presentations. 3. Parents are increasingly aware of the relevance and content of what is being studied. 4. Community members present information about their jobs and hobbies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A foundation of parental partnerships is established to improve the students' overall education. 2. The school and community form partnerships to improve student achievement. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school is an integral part of the community and community members contribute to student learning. 2. Parents are true partners in the education of their child and support the student's learning by actively participating in educational decisions involving their child. Parents assist in and promote the problem-solving, project-based work in which their students are involved.