

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & TRAINING

Parent Partnerships

Parent Involvement
in the Later Years of Schooling

Professional Development Module



Parental participation improves student learning whether the child is in preschool or in upper years, whether or not the family is struggling economically or is affluent, or whether the parents finished high school or graduated from college.

(Davis 2000)

→ Aim

To improve programs and strategies for involving parents to enable them to better support their children in the later years of schooling.



→ Research

1. A literature review
2. School-based consultation and focus groups with parents and staff
3. Key informant interviews with relevant agencies and personnel

➔ Developmental Needs of Young People



- Autonomy
- Competence and Coping Skills
- Belonging

➔ Key Findings



- A decline in direct parent involvement occurs between primary and secondary schooling
- The later years of schooling is a time of heightened risk
- Many parents, students and teachers perceive that the final years of school lead to high levels of stress and transition problems
- Parental participation improves student learning

➔ The Barriers to Parent Involvement in the Later Years of Schooling



- Practical constraints
- Attitudinal barriers
- Structural barriers

➔ The Benefits of Parent Involvement in the Later Years of Schooling



- For students:**
- Improves academic achievement
 - Creates a more positive attitude to school and studying
 - Improves school attendance
 - Increases satisfaction with tertiary education

- For parents:**
- Develops closer relationships with teachers
 - Increases opportunities for parents to share ideas with other parents
 - Reduces family conflict

- For teachers:**
- Develops a more positive relationship with parents
 - Encourages a better understanding of students
 - Encourages parental recognition of teaching skills and effort

➔ What is Parent Involvement in the Later Years?



Parent involvement in the later years of schooling is a program, strategy or action that involves parents in their child's education at school, home or in the community.

➔ Examples of Parent Involvement



A school initiative:

- Helping in class, supervising on excursions
- Participating in surveys
- Attending school events
- Membership of working parties or school council

A school–home initiative:

- A parent education program
- Reinforcing school advice at home
- Networking with other parents

A school–community initiative:

- Working with community agencies
- Community action initiatives
- Open days, expos

➔ Principles that Guide Parent and School Partnerships



Though there is little evidence to support any particular approach to parent involvement, there is endorsement for two main approaches:

- encouraging parents to model at-home behaviours that promote learning and demonstrate that education is valued
- conducting activities at school to support the teacher–parent relationship

➔ Parental Priority Areas



The four priority areas that seemed particularly relevant to parents in this project were:

- Protecting their child's health and wellbeing
- Improving their child's academic performance
- Becoming involved in decision making that affects their child's future
- Maintaining a supportive relationship with their child

➔ Parent Partnership Support Material



1. World of the Adolescent
2. Health and Wellbeing
3. A Note to Parents
4. Supportive Relationships
5. Resilient Families
6. The Difficult Emotions – Depression and Anxiety
7. Young People and Drugs
8. Success without Stress
9. Pathways to the Future
10. Communication and Parent Networking

➔ Developing a Parent Partnership Strategy



1. Getting Started
2. Gathering Information
3. Analysing the Data
4. Developing Recommendations
5. Developing a Parent Involvement Plan
6. Informing the School Community
7. Evaluating the Initiative