

Ideas for Communities

What Your Community Can do to Support Schools and Parent Involvement in Education



Combat alcohol, drugs, and violence

Communities can put students on the right path by providing a quality education and school-to-work programs that lead to college, technical training, or good jobs after high school. A future filled with hope and promise is the best answer to the hopelessness of drugs. Solving drug and safety problems is a difficult task, and each community will have to find its own answers. But when communities unite, real progress can be made.

Offer education programs for parents

Programs for parents can include academic classes, literacy training, career preparation, early childhood education, and assistance in finding helpful services in the community.

Provide mentor programs

Mentors can help with schoolwork, job skill development, career planning, parenting, and the many other challenges that young people face today.

Enlist community volunteers

Volunteers can serve as tutors or teacher aides, work in the library, or help with after-school activities, such as music and storytelling. In one school, grandparents served on patrol and as school guards to help keep kids safe.

Offer summer learning programs

Communities can make summer activities available to young people through schools, cultural institutions, park districts, and other public and private agencies.

Support preschool programs

Two examples of community programs that support parent or parent involvement are Parents as Teachers (PAT) and Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY). PAT and HIPPPY have been found to improve children's achievement and adjustment to school.

Support schools

Communities can offer after-school, summer learning, and recreation programs; locate library and cultural services near to schools; make neighborhoods safer and drug-free; encourage the development of business-school partnerships to create school-to-work programs; support schools' efforts to develop challenging academic standards; and work to improve education in many other ways.

Supporting parent involvement in education makes good sense

Encouraging family involvement is a good way to enhance your community's financial investment in education. If all parents of children ages 1 through 9 spent just one hour a day, five days a week, reading with their children or helping with schoolwork, the total number of learning hours would be in the thousands, maybe even millions. The total dollar value of all that teaching is enormous -- and the value of our children is incalculable.

Communities that support schools and families are better places to live, work, and learn

Communities that have good schools and better educated residents are almost always safer, more stable communities where businesses and families thrive, and these communities can be magnets for new businesses and jobs

The New Jersey State Parent Information and Resource Center

NJPIRC

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