





# Beyond the Month: Family Engagement in Education



## Engaging Families at Home and in the Community

- 1** Through **school-community partnerships**, connect with community-based programs/resources (e.g., health care and human services) that strengthen and support students' learning and promote well-being. 
- 2** Encourage parents to have **family meals** together regularly. Research suggests that students who have regular family dinnertime experience increased academic performance.
- 3** Ask **parents to help** produce newsletters and other community outreach materials that can be worked on at home and may be perfect for parents who are not available during school hours to contribute.
- 4** Make regular homework assignments that require students to **discuss with their families** what they are learning in class. 
- 5** Create a **Parent Resource Center** (online or on campus) and invite parents to explore the resources available to them. Include content on parenting, social, community and academic topics.
- 6** Offer an **online parent portal** so families can stay connected and updated on their child's progress in school including grades, attendance, test scores and schedule.
- 7** Launch a **community-mentoring program** for families which fosters positive relationships, social support and opportunities to develop new skills.

## Engaging Families at School

- 1** Create a **welcoming school climate**.
- 2** Make **positive parent phone calls** throughout the year.
- 3** Connect with **parents/families in-person** at the beginning of the year and stay in contact as much as possible. Use emails, texts, or apps to keep them up-to-date on upcoming class events and student achievements.
- 4** Conduct a **survey to obtain input from parents and students** on current and potential school workshop topics in order to identify ways to provide support for social and emotional learning. Host **family engagement nights** for families and students presenting on topics identified. 
- 5** Find out about **parents' talents** and skills and then invite them to lead after-school activities such as school exercise programs e.g., cheerleading, karate, aerobics and other activities that show their skills and talents.
- 6** **Share classroom expectations** and **student learning goals** openly with parents, and ask them to do the same. 
- 7** Plan **theme nights** which offer cross-curricular subjects in **all grade levels**. Create workstations that families and students can do together.
- 8** **Identify** and **address common challenges** that inhibit parent/family engagement such as scheduling conflicts, language barriers, etc.