

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Research has shown that the most significant predictor of a student's academic success is parental engagement in the student's education, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic/racial background, or parents' educational level¹; and

WHEREAS, When parents and educators and members of the community cooperate to encourage learning, research indicates children have higher success rates that will continue beyond graduation²; and

WHEREAS, The strongest predictors of parent engagement at school and at home are 1) specific school programs that guide parents to help student succeed and 2) teacher practices that encourage parent involvement in the education process^{3,4}; and

WHEREAS, Schools that foster relationships between parents and educators have improved teacher morale and higher ratings of teachers by parents⁵; and

WHEREAS, When parents are involved, students exhibit more positive attitudes, as well as decreased alcohol use, violence, and antisocial behavior⁶; and

WHEREAS, The second statement in the Mission of Utah PTA is to "encourage positive involvement in all facets of a child's life"⁷; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Utah PTA actively seek or develop and promote programs that assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies provide opportunities for parents to feel welcome at their children's schools and to interact positively with teachers and other school personnel; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA promote the use of programs and tools, such as the Family Education Plan, to guide parent, alongside their children, in forming plans for their children's education; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA support policies of the State Board of Education and local school districts that result in practices that encourage parental engagement in education; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage partnerships between community members and public schools that will champion parental engagement in education.

(Related resolutions: FAM 2007-1 Parenting and EDU 2013-2 Education Planning)

Documentation:

¹Schargel, Franklin P. & Smink, Jay. *Strategies to Help Solve Our School Dropout Problem, Eye on Education*. Larchmont, New York: 2001, pp. 52-54.

²Epstein, Joyce L. *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Preparing Educators and Improving Schools*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press 2001.

³Lockett, Cara. *Creating the Quality School* 8th Annual Conference, Address, 1999. Found in Promising Practices to Support Family Involvement in Schools. Diana B. Hiatt-Michael. IAP.2010 p. 111.

⁴Henderson, Anne T., Mapp, Karen L., Johnson, Vivian R. & Davies, Don. *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*, the New Press, New York 2007.

⁵Epstein, Joyce L. Effects on Student Achievement of Teachers' Practices of Parental Involvement. *Advances in Reading/Language Research* 5 1991:pp. 271-276 [at Harvard (Patrick scanned)].

⁶Schargel, Op. Cit.

⁷Utah PTA Mission Statement: <https://www.utahpta.org/about>.