



The research is clear and convincing:

Regardless of income or background, when parents are involved, students are more likely to earn higher grades and test scores, enroll in higher-level programs, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, graduate, and go on to postsecondary education.

Here are 10 more truths about parent involvement.

1. All parents have hopes and goals for their children.
2. Parents differ in their abilities and/or resources to help their children reach those goals.
3. The parent is the central contributor to a child's education.
4. Parent involvement must be seen as a legitimate element of education and deserves equal emphasis with elements such as school improvement and evaluation.
5. Parent involvement is an ongoing process, not a series of events.
6. Parent involvement requires a shared vision, policy, and framework for planning programs and practices that are connected to student learning.
7. Many barriers to parent involvement are found within school practices, attitudes, and assumptions.
8. Successful parent involvement programs help families guide their children's learning from preschool through high school.
9. Families from diverse backgrounds have their own set of norms and experiences that often influence their relationship with schools.
10. Parents are more likely to become involved when:
 - They understand that they should be involved.
 - They feel capable of making a contribution.
 - They feel invited by the school and their children.

It's not too late in the year to apply these Standards to your PTA practices and achieve increased family engagement in your school and PTA. On the back, you will find a goal sheet with each for the standards listed and a place to make a goal for each of the standards. Your challenge: pick 1 standard and make a goal and then work that goal!

If you need help or have questions, please contact us for help!

Amy Fox – Utah PTA National Standards Specialist – amy@utahpta.org
or Julie Cluff – Utah PTA Community Involvement Commissioner – juliec@utahpta.org
or Lina Zenger – Utah PTA Family Life Commissioner – linda@utahpta.org
or visit: tinyurl.com/NorthridgeSOE

National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

PTAs play an important role in promoting family engagement in schools and communities. The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships can be used by PTAs as a framework for thinking about, structuring, and assessing family engagement:

WHEN *families*
ARE *involved*
AT HOME & AT SCHOOL
CHILDREN DO BETTER
ACADEMICALLY & SOCIALLY



Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Goal: _____

Standard 2: Communicating effectively—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

Goal: _____

Standard 3: Supporting student success—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Goal: _____

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Goal: _____

Standard 5: Sharing power—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Goal: _____

Standard 6: Collaborating with community—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Goal: _____