Enhancing Parent Engagement: The Indicator 8 Training Modules Series



October 15, 2010



Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

Creating Family-School Partnerships

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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81LPAu5TkAY

PaTTAN's Mission

The mission of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) is to support the efforts and initiatives of the Bureau of Special Education, and to build the capacity of local educational agencies to serve students who receive special education services.

Our goal for each child is to ensure Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams begin with the general education setting with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services before considering a more restrictive environment.

AGENDA:

- Setting the Context

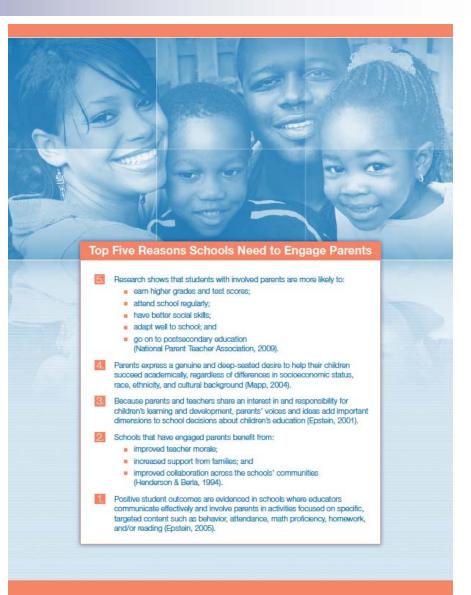
- An Overview of the National PTA Standards

- The Indicator 8 Needs Assessment

- Unpacking the Training Modules

Setting the Context

 Top 5 Reasons
 Schools Need to Engage Parents



IDEA

• State Performance Plan – Indicator 8:

Using the NCSEAM Survey, the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities

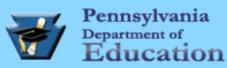
IDEA

- State Performance Plan Indicator 8:
 - How is the data collected?
 - Each year, parents of school-aged students with disabilities in approximately one-fifth of the state's LEAs receive the NCSEAM survey by mail and are asked to complete it. The survey consists of 25 questions designed to measure schools' efforts to partner with parents.

IDEA

- State Performance Plan Indicator 8:
 - Question: What is a sufficient percent of parents with a school age child receiving special education services reporting that their schools met the NCSEAM standard of school-facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities?

IDEA



Bureau of Special Education

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Data At a Glance

State Report

State Performance Plan Public Reporting for SD/CS (2005 – Current)

School District / Charter Schools SEDR (Archives 2002-2004)

Gifted Students as % of Total Enrollment

PA Department of Education Sites: PennData Home / SEDR Home / Public Reporting School District List

School District Public Reports (Alphabetic)

Select a School District:

School District Reports:

No Reports found

Overview of Phase I -Resource Development

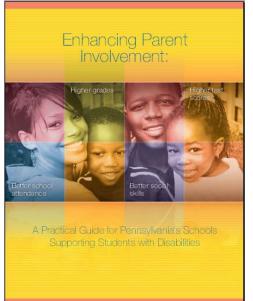
- Project Targeted for School Districts and Charter Schools
 - Continuous School Improvement
 - Effective Parent Engagement

- Developed In Partnership With:
 - Federally Funded Parent Centers
 - PaTTAN Parent Consultants
 - Consultline

Phase I:

- Development of publications for LEAs

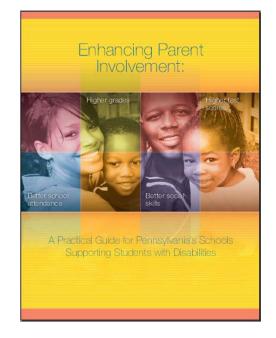
Dissemination of publications began in April, 2009





Enhancing Parent Involvement: <u>A Practical Guide for Pennsylvania's Schools</u>

- Themes
 - Leadership
 - Relationships
 - Training



- Each theme consists of:
 - Considerations based on research and best practice
 - Suggestions for implementation

Section I: Leadership

Involve parents in decisions that affect student achievement

• Establish a rapport with the broader community

• Develop a family-school partnership policy

Section II: Relationships

 Family involvement that supports student learning at home is linked to improved student achievement (Henderson & Mapp, 2002)

- Family involvement is not a one-size fits all model
- Relationship building requires ongoing, twoway communication

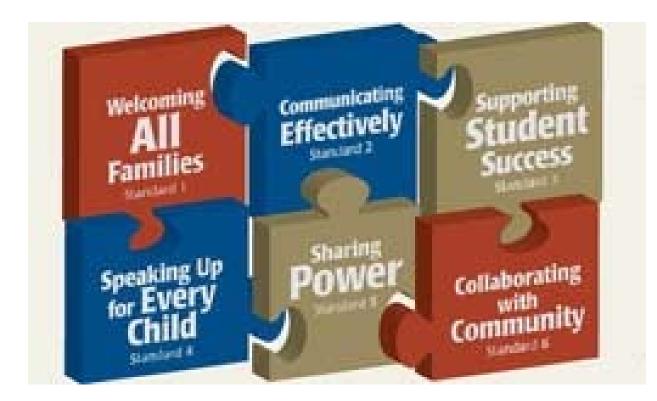
Section III: Training

- Focus Supporting Parents of Students with Disabilities
- Parent and Family Training
 - Processes and programs of general and special education
- School Staff Training

- Core tenets of parent engagement

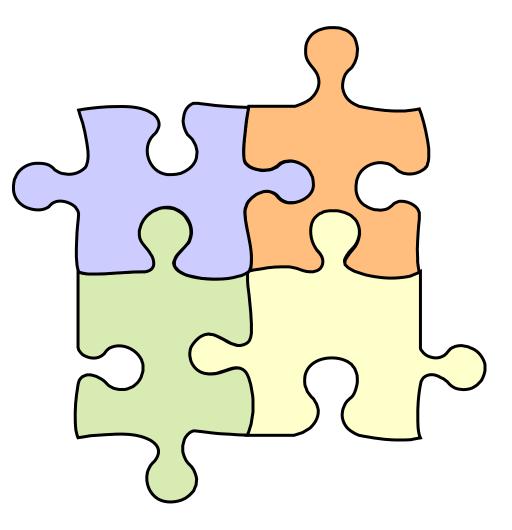
Enhancing Parent Engagement: Phase II

A Review of PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



Standards for Family-School Partnerships

- Form groups of six
- Each member of the group will review a PTA standard
- Take notes on the Jigsaw worksheet found on the training CD
- Share findings with small group



Parent Engagement Needs Assessment Summary

Check the level of evident practice for each standard, based on the overall rating of your school's work. The overall rating per standard is found in the summary table at the end of each of the sections of the needs assessment. Based on your school's work in each of the standard areas, identify the top three standards your school will need to address through the Indicator 8 training module series.

	Not Evident	Partially Evident	Evident	Priority
Standard 1: Welcoming all Families into the School Community				
Standard 2: Communicating Effectively				
Standard 3: Supporting Student Success				
Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child				
Standard 5: Shared Decision Making				
Standard 6: Collaborating with Community				

Phase II:

- Development of professional development modules for LEAs
- Each module addresses

 one of the National
 PTA Standards for
 Family and Community
 Engagement

National PTA Standards / Family-School Partnerships:

- 1. Welcoming all Families Into the School Community
- 2. Communicating Effectively
- 3. Supporting Student Success
- 4. Speaking Up for Every Child
- 5. Shared Decision Making
- 6. Collaborating with Community

- Modules include:
 - self-reflection activities
 - hands-on, practical experiences and action planning

 Resources and materials will be included provided as an electronic toolkit

Standard 1: Welcoming All Families into the School Community



Enhancing Parent Engagement: The Indicator 8 Training

Standard 2: Communicating Effectively



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Standard 3: Supporting Student Success



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Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child



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Standard 5: Shared Decision Making



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Standard 6: Collaborating with Community



Enhancing Parent Engagement: The Indicator 8 Training Module Series

- Modules include:
 - module overview
 - core PowerPoint presentation with trainer's notes
 - activity sheets
 - handouts
 - resources

Standard 1: Welcoming All Families

Purpose of Module: Remilies and community organizations are needed to build successful schools for all students. Schools that offer a welcoming environment and that demonstrate respect for and recognize the value of family and community involvement produce positive outcomes for sill. The purpose of StandardSt: Welcoming All Families is to assist school personnel in addressing means by which to establish and/or foster an inclusive, supportive and accepting school culture that welcomes and engages families at the school and classroom level. This module is designed to help schools indentify their strengths and areas of growth in relation to welcoming all families into the school community.

In total, there are 4 separate topical areas that are addressed in this module: Family Friendly Atmosphere, Accessibility, Relationships, and Family Involvement. While all 4 topical focus areas hold relevance for schools and districts that prioritize Standard 1 as a priority, the module trainer may decide to address any combinations of the 4 topics in order to successfully implement the objectives of this module. Trainer decisions regarding which of the 4 topics to address are site-based determinations, if not addressing all 4 topics within the module for Standard 1.

Objectives for this Module:

- Participants will construct a plan to address an indusive, supportive, and accepting school culture that welcomes and engages families at both the school and classroom level.
- · Participants will develop a plan to reduce barriers to meaningful family engagement at the school and classroom level.
- Participants will demonstrate strategies that foster the development of authentic relationships with families.
- · Participants will identify a continuum of options for families to contribute to their children's schooling in a meaningful way.

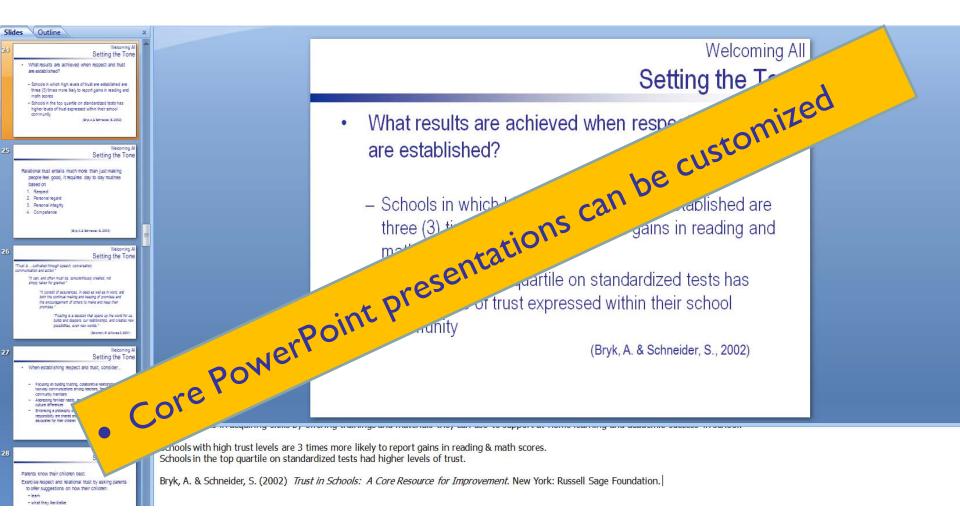
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Training Module Components	Time Needed	Activities	Materials
Opening, Welcome and Objectives	5 minutes	Not Applicable	PowerPoint slides 1-3 (Note: Slide #4 both situates for the trainer the 4 topical focus areas addressed in this module and directs the trainer to the

			various entry points for Standard 1. It is not necessary to share slide 4 during the actual presentation of the module.)
Family Friendly Atmosphere	30 Minutes	Optional Activity – Reading the Research (see fedilitator notes on slide # 7)	PowerPoint slides 3-18 Articles cited on slide #7 (Henderson and MR80, 2002) and (Epstein, 2003), which are available in this module's Articles and Resources Folder
	30 Minutes	Activity 1 - Reflections on a Welcoming Environment (see fecilitator notes on slide # 9)	Activity sheet 1.1 - Reflections on a Welcoming Environment, chart paper, markers Handout 1.1 - Debriefing Worksheet (note: for facilitator's use, only)
	30 Minutes	Optional Activity - Active Ustening (see facilitator notes on slide #10)	Handout 1.2 – The Art of Active Listening
	30 Minutes	Activity 2 – Visitors as Customers (see fecilitator notes on slide #12)	Activity sheet 1.2 - Visitorses Customers, Activity 1.2 Advance Organizer, Activity 1.2 articles, Handout 1.1 - Debriefing Worksheet (note: for fadilitator's use, only)

Verieble	Activity 3 – Welcoming School Collage (see facilitator noted on side # 14)	Activity sheet 1.3 - Welcoming School Collage, Activity 1.3 Planning Sheet, note cards/post it notes Hendout 1.1 - Debriefing Worksheet (note: for facilitator's use, only)
		Activity 2 Visitors as Customers

		Activity 7 Materials: Chart, markers Activity 8 Trust Builders Activity 8 Materials: computers or copies of article Activity 9 Inclusionery Documents Activity 9 Materials: School documents	Activity 9 Inclusionary Documents
Family Involvement	2 hours	Slides 51-69 Options Include: Activity 10 Whole Child Education	Options Include: Activity 10 Whole Child Education Activity 11 Volunteer



Modules include:

- trainer's notes

Welconing All Setting the Tone

- + Convey genuine regard and respect
- · Convey empethy and warmth
- · Talk with people, not at people
- · Avoid equ-oriented behavior (yours and theirs)
- it tends to get in the way of engaging others
- · Use active listening skills

Every member of the school community plays a role in chaping the tone of the environment. Administration office personnel, all school personnel set the tone for welcoming people into the school.

The following are but a few suggestions that, when effectively and consistently employed, can give positive diage to feeling-tune.

- Convey genuine regard and respect (e.g., transmit real interest and interact in a way that enables the individual to maintain a feeling of interactly and servanal control)
- Convey empathy and warmth (e.g., understand and appreciate what the individual is thinking and feeling, ensure the person knows that they are weisanced and values for their insights and contributions)
- * Talk with people, not at people * Finally, watch out for ego-oriented behavior (yours and theirs)--it tends to get in the way of engaging others

· Use active listening skills

Now, let's consider active latening skills.

ACTIVIT-

Arth

(Note: Ask the participants to take 90 seconds to list as many active listening skills with which they are familiar. This quick write may be done as a whole group activity, small group activity, or independent activity, but, results should be avoided or reacteds.)

Now, let's review active listening in more detail (distribute Handout 1.1 & ask participants to compare your list to the active listening skills noted on Handout 1.1

(Optional Activity - Active Listening Depending on the need's of the group, participants could be asked to engage in follow-up active listening

Webcoming All Setting the Tone Two-way information in many forms needs to flow. regularly between school staff and families. (Bull, Breakings, & Campbell, 2008) - Information about academic goals, class work, and homowark provided in parent's home language - Multiple wars to share information (email, home visits) - Parents provide teedback on the provided information While the module addressing Standard 2: Communicating Effectively drills into effective strategies more deeply, it is important to note here and now that effective two-way com down barriers between home and school, fostering a welcoming, positive feeling-tone. Bull, Brookings and Campbell (2008) found that timely, two-way communication bets Their second, sinch segments that of gamma is as to append their bidden's bench, they are also be appendent to the second secon Similarly, JoBeth Allen (2009), of the Department of Language and Literacy Education at the University of Georgia, suggests that we, as educators, need to examine our existing practices, and revise them in some important ways. - Instead of one-way newsletters, consider dialogue journals. Dialogue journals provide a venue for family members and school personnel to suchange brief, yet frequent communications relating to educational needs of their student(s). Consider whether you

Institute dialogue journals for all families, the cycle for exchanging the journals, and the topics you might propose for the journals. - Sometimes differences in approaches make a big differences. Initiate informal conversations at students' out-of-school activities or instituting student-led parent-leacher

conferences - And, be sware of "phosts," part schooling experiences that teachers and family members bring to the proverbial conference table. If we are successful in building trusting

IVIY - HIRDY BE LUBDINGS	Welconing All Setting the Tone
	comensione of effective two-way affects the tone established within an

17

19

- built Those in more to it from that

What do nurses, librarians, musiciens or those who work in business have to toach educators when it comes to customer service and positive feeling-tone?

and affects the to Active listening is a comentance of effective two-way communication and affects the tune establis an organization. And, as we just explored, there is more to active listening than good eye contact. But, there is more to it than just that when considering the tone in your schoolid.

As we consider and examine ways to reviee our existing practices in order to ensure a welcoming feeling-tone is notrated and established in our schools, it relight be good to look to the business sector to provide additional insights. Consider the parents, family and commonly members you work with a s' schoolmens."

(Refer to Activity 1.2)

Activity 1.2 ads us to translate brief issues issued from other professions in order to better inform our concepts about welcoming, sengaging continue weaks. The following article discuss continues service. Such article was written for a different group of stateholders journey. (Brachan, modeland, and entrepresent), for, the points for sense in these articles have key points that can translate to the school endorment.

(2006). Are You Being Sensed? Electronic Musician (22) 6, 138. Retrieved from Academic Search premie

deStricker, U. (2007). My Pleasure to Serve You: Glent Service Marketing, Falkitar (53) 3, 130-133. Retrieved from Academic Search premier database.

Fry, A. (2009). Lessons on Good Castomer Service. Library Journal (134) 54, 33-34. Retrieved from Academic Search premier database. Javitah, D. (2005). Teaching Good Castamer Service. Entrepreneur. Retrieved February 17, 2009 from

Torque, S. (2001). First and last impressions. Numing Standard (23) 13, 64. Retrieved from Academic Search

(Note: This activity may be facilitated as a whole group activity, small group activity, gallery walk, or as a

Family Friendly Meetings Use the same rules of etiquette you would use in your home. Provide name tags with names and position Introduce everyone · Explain the agends and time trame · Anticipate that parents may become emotional and be

Welconing All

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Setting the Tone

- prepared to be supportive
- Preside apping
- · Follow up the meeting in a few days with a call

Imagine this scenario

You walk into an examination room in your Doctor's Office. Your Doctor enters, accompanied by several other medical personnel with whom you are not particularly familiar. Immediately your Doctor starts to conduct your scheduled examination. How might you feel?

How would the presence of other personnel affect you?

 Might you be anxious or carlous as to the reason others are present in your examination? - Would you be as apt to disclose information to your Doctor with the same level of ease and comfort in the presence of the other personnel

Again, as Alen (2009) suggests [see slide 11], sometimes differences in approaches can make the biggest differences.

Think about how you facilitate meetings with families Would you consider the way you structure meetings, "Family Friendly?" What evidence do you have to suggest that your meetings are considered friendly and inviting?

Take a moment and discuss your approach to facilitating the tone of meetings with family members Personally reflect on the following

- When large group meetings are convened, do you provide name tags for attendeed Do you take the time to introduce yourself and others at the start of the meetings? Do you explain the agenda and time frame associated with meetings prior to their start? How do you prepare for family members that may become distressed or emotional during meetings (Sometimes, having a box of tissues at hand suggests compassion for the distressed family member.) When reference materials are recessary, do you have copies readily available in family fitendly language, when appropriate, and/or in the primary language spoken by the family? Per uner follow on with family manuface following mastered time?

Standard 1: Welcoming All Families Activity 1.3

> Welcoming Schools Collage – Part I Time: 30 minutes

Purpose:

Read into whatyour students and their tamilies tell you about what a welcoming environment actually looks like. As a home-school project, ask your students (and their families) to contribute pictures and photos for purposes of assembling collages that embody "welcoming" concepts.

<u>Materials Needed:</u> Activity 1.3 Planning Sheet (see below)

Roles:

Facilitator, to give directions Participants, to determine plan and oversee implementation of the "Welcoming" Schools Collage(s)

<u>Activity:</u>

The collage may be facilitated at the classroom, grade/department, or whole school levels. The activity may also be appropriate for school community groups, such as PTA/PTO, advisory panels, school <u>volunteers</u>, etc. As a team, discuss how you want to structure the activity and design a plan to implement the activity.

Standard 1: Welcoming All Families Activity 1.3

Welcoming Schools Collage - Planning Sheet

Planning Prompts	Notes / Person(s) Respon
 Determine at which level the collage project will be implemented. 	
(e.g. classroom, grade/department, school- wide level)	
 Determine who will construct the collage(s). (e.g. teams of students, targeted classrooms/departments, each student and their family, iden tified school community stakeholder groups) 	
 Determine resources necessary to construct the collage(s). 	
 Determine in which venue the collage(s) will be constructed. (e.g. at school - during the school day, at home, during family-school events) 	
 Determine reason able timelines for implementing the collage project. (e.g. kick-off date, submissions date for photos/pictures, window for collage assembly, display of products) 	

Standard 1: Welcoming All Families Activity 1.3

Welcoming Schools Collage - Planning Sheet, Cont.

Planning Prompts

Notes /

Standard 1: Welcoming All Families Activity 1.3

> Welcoming Schools Collage – Part II Time: 30 minutes

Dumpoon

Standard 1: Welcoming All Families Handout 1.2

THE ART OF ACTIVE LISTENING

Active listening is all about building rapport, understanding, and trust. Are you a good listener?

Active Listening Skills

1. Restating

To show you are listening, repeat every so often what you think the person said — not by parroting, but by paraphrasing what you heard in your own words. For example, "Let's see if I'm clear about this..."

2. Summarizing

Bring together the facts and pieces of the problem to check understanding — for example, "So it sounds to me as if . . ." Or, "Is that it?"

3. Minimal encouragers

Use brief, positive prompts to keep the conversation going and show you are listening for example, "umm-hmmm," "Oh?" "I understand," "Then?" "And?"

4. Reflecting

Instead of just repeating, reflect the speaker's words in terms of feelings — for example, "This seems really important to you..."

5. Giving feedback

Let the person know what your initial thoughts are on the situation. Share pertinent



Family/School Partnership Checklist*

The purpose of the inventory is to identify how family-friendly your school is, as well as how your school could improve. Each item has been selected because scientific studies have found it to be related to family/school partnerships. While no school has all of the family-friendly supports listed, it is often possible to develop such supports when citizens like you think they are important.

Directions:

- (1) Carefully examine the rating scale below before item, please circle the response that comes clos indicates that the activity or approach is strong i that the activity is not yet part of the school's pri for those items you are unsure of or do not have answer as many items as you can to the best of
- (2) We are asking you to rate whether each item exemple, when the question reads "Hosts regul and school staff can get to know each other", th whether or not this occurs at your school, and h well attended, etc.
- (3) Prior to each section of the checklist, you will se is available, these items are completed based o schools that are participating in the Families, Sc (US) Project at the University of Wisconsin-Mac the items will be left blank and you should answ information.

0 – Don't Know:	Unsure whether this occurs a about this.
1 – Never:	Strategy does not happen a
2 – Rarely:	Occurs in only one or two c Clearly not emphasized in c
3 – Sometimes:	Occurs in some classes. Re emphasis across grades. N parental involvement plan.
4 – Often:	Occurs in many but not all o time and emphasis. A fairly involvement plan.
5 – Frequently:	Occurs in most or all classe

Early Childhood Educ J (2008) 35:419-427 DOI 10.1007/s10643-007-0198-z

Using Our Understanding of Families to Strengthen Fam Involvement

Herman T. Knopf + Kevin J. Swick

Published online: 24 October 2007 © Springer Science+Business Media, LLC 2007

Abstract The purpose of this article is to help teachers become more responsive to the changing needs and contexts of families in their efforts to establish relationships and encourage family participation. Through this article, the authors describe the changing landscape of parenting and the stressors experienced by contemporary families. The authors then provide a review of research that describes strategies that have been successfully employed by teachers of young children to foster increased communication and family involvement. The article concludes with suggestions to help early childhood professionals change their paradigm of parent involvement from a school-centric perspective to one that is more family-centric.

Keywords Parent-teacher relationships -Parent involvement strategies

The value of having strong parent and family involvement in early childhood education programs is supported by considerable research and study (Swids 2001). The chel meaningful with families. Thus, the how changes in local communite have affected families and early et authors then identify ways that eaners learn about families, and u develop strong programs to encos involvement. A key aspect of the a capitalize on family strengths in a empowering relations with familie

Families Have Changed: What this Means for Family Involvement

As Stephanie Coontz (1997) suggests, families throughout time have experienced change and been challenged by the stressors prevalent in the context of their era. At no time in history, however, have families experienced more change and more stress than today's young families (Pipher 1996). These changes have affected families tremendously and indeed have affected their relations with early childhood



Howard S. Muscott Stacy Szczesiul Becky Berk Kathy Staub Jane Hoover Paula Perry-Chishelm

Schoolaride positive behavior supports (SWPBS) is a culturally responsive set of systems, practices, and data-based decision-making features designed to achieve socially important behavior change. One important feature of SWPBS is the evidence-based practice of empaging families as partners in schooling. Statewide initiations, early childhood education programs, and K-12 schools enouged in SWPRS can establish and use home-school partnerships as leverage for school improvement. How can schools foster family engagement in developing, implementing, and sustaining SWPBS? What are the challenges associated with such engagement? What barriers dio schools face?

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

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