



A Checklist for Assessing the Family Impact of School Policies

UW
Extension

When legislators and school officials are developing school finance policies, this checklist could help them identify a number of specific ways to acknowledge and support family well-being. Some of these items require funding, and others can be implemented when policymakers and public officials believe that family involvement is important to children's success in school.

- 1. Write a policy that supports comprehensive programs of family, school, and community partnership.
- 2. Establish a single office with an expert leader and adequate staff to facilitate the development and continuous improvement of programs of partnership. This office provides staff development and technical assistance and coordinates partnerships across departments.
- 3. Allocate a per-pupil expenditure or lump-sum budget for school, family, and community partnerships to cover staff and program costs.
- 4. Establish small grants and other support for developing and implementing partnerships.
- 5. Establish a clearinghouse to disseminate promising practices of partnership.
- 6. Support requirements for teacher and administrator credentials on partnerships.
- 7. Develop courses for pre-service, advanced, and/or inservice education on partnerships.
- 8. Support a master teacher, lead teacher, or professional coordinator in each school to assist with partnerships.
- 9. Develop partnership tools or products (e.g., brochures, lunch menus, calendars, newsletters, publications for all schools and families, and guidelines for communicating with non-English-speaking families).
- 10. Encourage business, industry, and other community connections to strengthen school, family, and community partnerships.
- 11. Establish an advisory committee for school, family, and community partnerships including educators, parents, and community teachers.
- 12. Institute an accountability system to monitor and evaluate progress; recognize and reward excellent work on partnerships.
- 13. Support evaluations of the effects of demonstration and ongoing partnership programs.
- 14. Conduct an annual conference for schools to share best practices with each other and to continue annual plans for improving partnership programs.

Epstein, J. L. (2001). *School, family, and community partnerships: Preparing educators and improving schools*. Boulder CO: Westview Press. (Chapter 4, pp. 349-350.)

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