

Parent Involvement: Keys to Success
A podcast series from the Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center

Parent Liaisons: The School-Community Link
 Listener's Guide

Key idea: Parent liaisons work with teachers, administrators, and parents to coordinate and advocate for family involvement to help students achieve.

Key Information	Notes
Role of the parent liaison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match parents with teachers and with volunteer opportunities. • Conduct workshops with parents to help them understand how to support their children's learning. • Translate school announcements and letters. • Respond to the needs and concerns of families and school staff. 	
Strategies for SEAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide resources to schools that describe the role of parent liaisons in schools. • Offer specific models that are effective in other schools and districts. • Help school and district staff understand the relationship between the parent liaison position and student academic achievement. • Provide opportunities to network with other educators who are utilizing parent liaisons in their schools. 	

Resources

Henderson, A. (2002). *No Child Left Behind: What's in it for parents?* Arlington, VA: Parent Leadership Associates.

Henderson, A., Mapp, K., Johnson, V., & Davies, D. (2007). *Beyond the bake sale: The essential guide to family/school partnerships.* New York: The New Press.

Hernandez, N. (2008, March 13). Reaching out, making connections: School liaisons bridge parents' education and language gaps. *The Washington Post*, p. PG01. Retrieved May 19, 2008, from <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/12/AR2008031202285.html>

- Howland, A., Anderson, J., Smiley, A., & Abbott, D. (2006). School liaisons: Bridging the gap between home and school. *School Community Journal*, 16, 47-68. Retrieved May 19, 2008, from <http://www.adi.org/journal/fw06/HowlandAndersonSmileyAbbottFall2006.pdf>
- Moles, O. (Ed.). (1996). Personal Contacts. *Reaching all families: Creating family-friendly schools*. Washington, DC: U. S. Department of Education. Retrieved June 25, 2008, from <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/ReachFam/perscon.html>
- San Diego Unified School District. (2006). *Fact sheet: Parent academic liaisons (PALs)*. Retrieved July 16, 2008, from <http://www.sandi.net/comm/factsheets/pals.pdf>