

Parent Involvement: Keys to Success

A podcast series from the Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center

Introduction

Transcript

Welcome to this podcast series from the Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center (ARCC) at Edvantia, what we call the ARCC. This series is devoted to issues related to parent involvement, especially as it relates to improving student learning. The experts at the National Center for Family Literacy, one of the ARCC's partner organizations, have decades of experience investigating and implementing programs related to parent involvement. Through that network, they have conducted research, implemented and tested models, and developed resources for educators at all levels. These resources are designed to leverage parent involvement to result in improved student learning. In addition, NCFL is just one organization in a network of researchers and practitioners that conduct research, develop helpful products, and provide guidance to educators on issues related to parent involvement. This series of podcasts draws from the body of knowledge created by that entire network.

The primary audience for this series of podcasts are educators at state departments of education. However, since the parents are at schools where their kids are educators at all levels will find helpful information and strategies that they can use. No state official would argue that parent involvement is NOT important but, with pressures to implement federal and state education policies, sometimes other issues can draw attention away from parent involvement. This series of podcasts is designed to help state education agency staff relay research and best practices related to parent engagement in student learning to the districts and schools with whom they work. The podcasts are designed to provide quick responses to concerns and issues that state staff face in relation to parent involvement, and to serve as a source for information and strategies that they can easily point to when working with district and school staff.

What you'll find

You'll find a variety of helpful information and links to resources throughout these podcasts. Each podcast is based on a single issue or theme. Based on the amount of information on a particular topic, there may be more than one podcast on an issue.

Each issue is presented based on a framework developed by the National Center for Family Literacy called *All Your Parents = AYP*. The resources that support the AYP framework come from literature reviews, journal articles, and lessons learned from parent involvement projects. The framework was developed with input from researchers, practitioners with field experience, and—of course—parents. All of the issues are grouped into one of six critical areas important to engaging parents in student learning. These six areas are...

1. Setting the climate
2. Communicating with families
3. Developing relationships
4. Providing information and strategies

5. Engaging parents in learning
6. Developing leaders and mentors

As you become familiar with the podcasts, you will also notice that several key elements are included as each issue is covered. You'll find:

- **Key Ideas** related to the issue being covered.
- **Scenarios** and examples from real-life situations. Some of these come directly from parents while others may be information from educators or researchers. In many of these, you'll hear the real voices of these people, that were collected by the ARCC through forums, conferences, webcasts, and other events.
- Each podcast will provide some information derived from research and best practice to present **What We Know** about each issue.
- You'll also find mention of, or links to, **teacher and parent materials** that provide practical application in a variety of situations. Often, downloadable versions of these materials or links to them will be found on the podcast's corresponding Web page. They are free for you to use and disseminate.
- Finally, you'll be directed to some **supporting resources** for further follow-up. These podcasts are designed to provide an overview of information quickly. Hopefully, you'll then explore some of the supporting resources.

Each podcast has a corresponding Web page and listener's guide. Sometimes the information in the podcast is a bit difficult to get across without some written detail. The listener's guide will have synopses of the information presented in the podcast, strategies educators and parents can use, links to other tools and helpful information, and a reference list, when necessary.

We hope you enjoy this podcast series and listen to receive every installment. Feel free to visit often and review the resources found on the ARCC Web site, because the site will continue to grow over time.

To get started, download and view the first podcast in the series called Parents Support Student Progress: Send Student Achievement Goals Over the Top. It provides some background on the importance of parent involvement, presented through the voices of leading researchers in the field. It includes a description of how parent involvement is presented in federal policy, and poses some tough parent involvement questions for you to consider; these questions will be explored throughout the series.

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