

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Families have a major influence on their children's achievement in school and through life. When schools, families and the community work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and become engaged learners.¹

Increased active involvement in student learning communicates to the child that learning and education are important in his or her family. The increased parent-child interaction is itself ultimately rewarding to both children and parents, particularly when this is tied to identifiable success at school.²

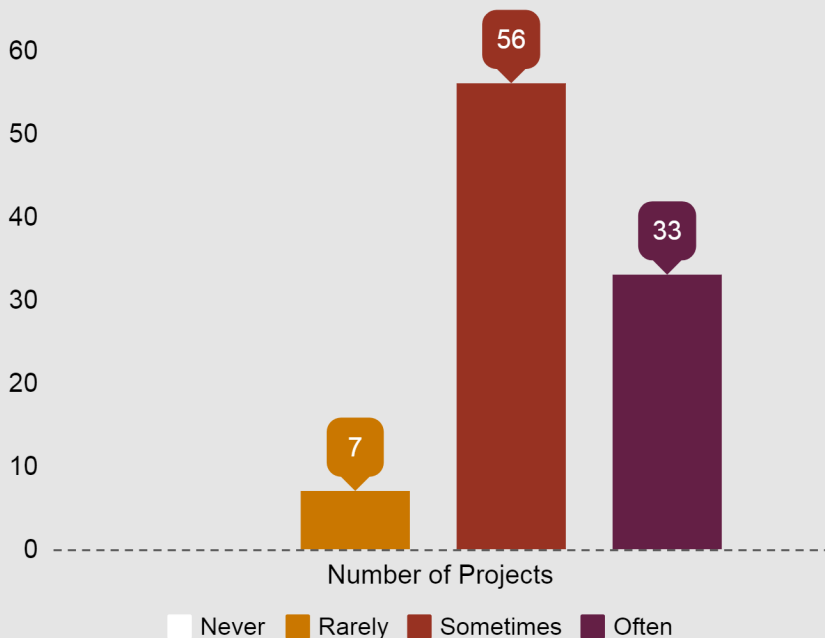


HOW CAN YOU DO IT?

- Regular, targeted communication to families regarding academic activities and schedules
- Provide families of students with "welcome packages" and personalized letters
- Maintain a collaborative partnership between the school and parent council
- Actively and genuinely seek family input through newsletters or online surveys
- Give families information on how to directly contact the teacher at school
- Invite parents and the community to assemblies for student awards and academic excellence
- Offer access to a lending library resources to support their engagement and student learning
- Assign homework that incorporates interactive, family-student components. These could be as simple as reading assignments.

HERE'S THE DATA

HOW OFTEN DOES YOUR DISTRICT ENGAGE FAMILIES?

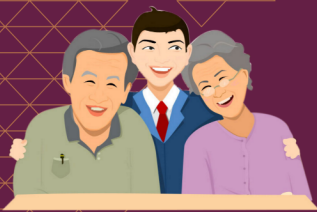


Wellness Fund projects have reported on how families are key stakeholders in their children's education and should be actively included in wellness initiatives.

The data represents project reporting from 2017.



Increasing awareness among administrators, teachers and parents about the positive correlation between school-based health promotion and students' academic outcomes and behaviour was repeatedly articulated as a strategy to secure buy-in.³



Wellness Fund projects have also garnered buy-in from parents and families by ensuring that wellness is on the agenda at parent council meetings.

Providing a regular forum in which to discuss wellness has helped to identify comprehensive school health as a whole school community responsibility.

SOURCE BLOCK



- 1 Harris, A. & Goodall, J. Engaging Parents in Raising Achievement Do Parents Know They Matter?. University of Warwick. 2007.
- 2 Thompson, K., Gillis, T., Fairman, J. & Mason, C. Effective Strategies for Engaging Parents in Students' Learning to Support Achievement. The University of Maine. 2014.
- 3 Stolp, S., Wilkins, E. & Raine, K. Developing and sustaining a healthy school community: Essential elements identified by school health champions. Health Education Journal 74 (3). 2015. 299-311.