## It Starts at Home

## The role of families in students' academic learning

Learning happens in all areas of students' lives, including at school and at home. Research has proven that children whose families are engaged in their education are more successful in school and have higher academic goals.

Engagement includes participating in a child's school fundraiser or attending his or her performances and athletic events. It also means partnering with the child's school to support learning at home.

## What can parents do?

Parents can create a home environment that encourages learning. This includes:

- a warm, safe environment;
- · food and shelter;
- a good night's sleep;
- a quiet place to work and study;
- time to talk with their child about his or her day; and
- an open and accepting environment for questions and concerns.

Parents can also communicate high, but reasonable, expectations for their child. They can:

- praise successes and not dwell on mistakes.
- help their child understand the importance of education and the opportunities it provides.

Parents can also get involved in their child's education at school and in the community.

