

# It Starts at Home

## What is family engagement?

Family engagement encourages teamwork and support between students, their families, school staff, and the community to help children succeed throughout school.

Positive, caring relationships between these important people will help children feel supported and secure while creating a healthy learning environment.

Students who are supported by the whole community are better set up for success and better positioned to achieve their academic and personal goals.

Some things to consider:

- Families are their children's first and most constant teachers.
- All children have the right to the opportunity to reach their full potential.
- Good schools become better schools when parents are involved.
- All families and schools want the best for their children.
- Effective schools provide a nurturing and supportive learning environment.

## The benefits of family engagement

Parents are their children's first teachers. They play an essential role in their child's life-long learning. To create a strong foundation for children's academic achievement, there must be strong partnerships between families, students, teachers, school administration, and community members.

### ***Proven benefits***

- Students have higher grades and better attendance.
- Students complete homework more consistently.
- Students have higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education.
- Educators hold higher expectations of students whose parents collaborate with teachers.
- Children from diverse cultural backgrounds perform better when parents and professionals collaborate. Collaboration helps bridge any gaps between the culture at home and the culture at school.
- Student alcohol use, violence, and antisocial behaviour decrease as parent involvement increases.
- Parents help motivate better academic performance if they participate in school events, develop relationships with educators, and keep up with what's happening at their children's school.
- High school students make better transitions, maintain their work quality, and develop realistic future plans if their parents remain involved in their schooling.