

Bridges/Barriers for School, Family and Community Partnerships

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Bridges*	Schools	Families/Parents/Guardians
Awareness	Embrace the roles parents/families play in the educational process and the benefits of involvement.	Understand the role they play in the educational process.
Value	Embrace participation as a critical tenet to success in education and securing our democracy.	Embrace their role as a critical tenet to the success of their children in education.
Beliefs/Attitudes	Form beliefs carefully, knowing they are often conveyed in attitudes.	Internalize their roles and responsibilities as parents and as community members.
Trust	Know they are serving the community well and establish active, positive relationships with members.	Security in knowing the educational system provides a just, caring, and quality education for their children.
Understanding	Learn, experiment, build an ability to work effectively with parents/families in participatory ways, in the common interest of all children.	Know how to participate actively as a community member.
Skills	Define required skills, provide all with direction, support, feedback and opportunities to develop skills.	Continually seek to improve skills as an engaged and involved community member in support of the well-being of all children.
Confidence	See positive results.	See positive results.
Language/Jargon	Effectively communicate.	Effectively communicate.
Culture	Understand and respect individual differences and embrace these differences by assuring cultural competence in instructional practices.	Understand how the educational system functions, understand how to navigate the education system, and understand how the expectations of the community stem from democratic values.
Welcoming	Openly share information with all community members; encouraging and enabling them to do their best.	Assure the community provides adequate support for the learning and development of all children.

*Barriers exist where bridges do not.

Circumstantial Barriers for Involvement

Time Demands/Stress
Crisis
Child-Care Issues

Lack of Financial/Other Resources
Lack of Transportation
Illiteracy

Other Barriers for Involvement

Defensiveness
Resistance
Stereotyping

Intimidation
Negative Experiences
Fear