

# TeachME Professional Development

## Fostering Meaningful Relationships Between Schools and Parents

**1. Research is newly telling us that perhaps the most influential factor in a student's achievement levels at school is:**

- A. Their location
  - B. Their family's income levels
  - C. Their parent's educational levels
  - D. Their parent's involvement in their education
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**2. When parents are surveyed to learn what their primary rationale for not being involved with their child's education, what's the most common response?**

- A. Not enough time
  - B. Not enough interest
  - C. Uncomfortable with school
  - D. Not enough information
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**3. What is the most effective first step for schools to encourage diverse families to take practical steps to support their own children's education?**

- A. Ask them why they're not supporting their children
  - B. Recognize and work to meet the needs they have as a family
  - C. Present yourself as an authoritative resource
  - D. Email them updates about their child's progress
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**4. What is the primary difference between parent engagement and parent involvement?**

- A. There is no difference
  - B. Parent involvement happens only on school grounds
  - C. Parent involvement stems from the teacher; parent engagement stems from the parent
  - D. Parent involvement stems from the parent; parent engagement stems from the teacher
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**5. What is one practical benefit of parental involvement for the parents - not necessarily the students?**

- A. Parents can consider this a networking opportunity.
- B. Parents can get out of the house more.
- C. Parental involvement has no benefits for the parent.

D. Parents feel happier about their educational choices regarding their family.

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**6. If a parent cites a lack of time as a reason that they cannot engage more in school activities, what is one possible way to respond?**

- A. Listening - then proposing childcare or other solutions to meet the parent's need
  - B. Suggesting the parent quit their job
  - C. Asking to review the parent's time management strategy
  - D. Listening, and then offering up no solution, because that's not your place.
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**7. Which of these is not an effective method for boosting parental engagement?**

- A. Complimenting the parents for their current level of involvement
  - B. Penalizing the parents for their lack of involvement
  - C. Being transparent about your purpose
  - D. Being consistent
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**8. Which of these is not an example of parental involvement or engagement?**

- A. Parents talking to children about their educational goals
  - B. Parents volunteering at school
  - C. Parents and teachers connecting at school meetings
  - D. Parents completing school projects for their children
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**9. In surveys completed to learn more about parent communication preferences, researchers learned that a growing percentage of parents prefer what type of communication about their students?**

- A. Weekly text updates about their child's progress
  - B. Daily emails about their child's progress
  - C. Monthly calls about their child's progress
  - D. Weekly video calls about their child's progress
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**10. One study completed recently learned that one state's educational outreach had one major flaw. What was it?**

- A. It hadn't been updated in a decade
  - B. Their outreach was targeting solely affluent two-parent households
  - C. The plan did not include recommendations for digital, internet-age communication solutions
  - D. They didn't have a parent outreach program
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**11. Sometimes, simplest is best. Which of these is likely the easiest way to get parents to show up to school events?**

- A. Offer free childcare and food.
  - B. Hold the events in the morning.
  - C. Bring the meetings to them - make them all Zoom calls.
  - D. Threaten their child's educational opportunities.
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**12. Why might partnering with other schools in your area be a good strategy to get more parents involved?**

- A. This is not a good idea
  - B. You can take the focus off issues at your own school
  - C. If your school doesn't host the gathering, you don't have to clean up afterward.
  - D. More people involved gets the word out faster - plus, it's an exciting community-building opportunity.
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**13. If you're having trouble engaging a parent in a difficult, problem-solving conversation regarding their child, what might be a good initial strategy?**

- A. Take steps to identify the actual problem first.
  - B. Ask your school's administration to step in.
  - C. Diffuse the tense conversation with a joke.
  - D. Become defensive about your outreach strategies.
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**14. Which is the best way to prompt ongoing attendance by parents at school functions?**

- A. Offer high-value entertainment or education at these events (e.g., parenting classes or boundary workshops)
  - B. Ask them to bring their children
  - C. Make all of the meetings remote (e.g., Zoom calls)
  - D. There is no effective way to boost parental attendance at school functions
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**15. A study performed in Chicago found that students with high levels of parent engagement were \_\_\_ times more likely to show improvement towards their math initiatives.**

- A. 2
  - B. 5
  - C. 10
  - D. 15
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**16. What is one of the easiest ways to personalize messages for many different families during your limited communication time as a teacher?**

- A. Enlist your class to help you hand-address postcards.
- B. Lean on video messaging - it's interactive and more engaging than an email, and quick with the help of a digital messaging platform.
- C. Stay after school to call every parent in your class on a regular basis.

D. Simply make sure to text every parent, every day, with a little positive update about their child.

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**17. When engaging with parents in a remote learning scenario, what's the first step for beneficial initial outreach?**

- A. Provide parents with practical resources to solve their remote learning frustrations.
  - B. Schedule an additional Zoom call to educate the parents on your education aims.
  - C. Perform a home visit to onboard them efficiently.
  - D. Make sure that the students are entirely self-sufficient in a remote learning scenario.
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**18. If a parent has unpleasant memories of their own education serving as baggage that's affecting their ability to support their children, how might you respond?**

- A. Referring them to a therapist
  - B. Being upbeat and positive about their child's existing progress and the parent's current support
  - C. Tactfully refraining from being upbeat and positive about their child's progress
  - D. Working through the parent's experiences with them yourself to clear the air
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**19. Which is better for fostering parent-teacher relationships: One- or two-way communication (and why)?**

- A. One-way communication: It keeps things efficient
  - B. One-way communication: It allows you to stay on message
  - C. Two-way communication: It allows the teacher to say twice as much
  - D. Two-way communication: It allows the parent to feel heard and provide valuable feedback
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**20. Which of these is not a material benefit - for the student - of a strong parent-teacher bond and increased parent engagement?**

- A. Fewer social media distractions
  - B. Better classroom behavior
  - C. Better social skills
  - D. Higher grades
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