Communicating and working with parents

Parents and guardians are any school’s strongest allies for helping students achieve and thrive to their fullest potential. Robust two-way communication with students’ families cultivates a relationship between the home and the school that puts the families squarely on the school’s team when working with students.

### Communicating with parents

**Parent Participation Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>This school</th>
<th>The state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percentage of students in the school whose parents responded to the SALT Survey.

**What Parents Say**

- Percent who report they agree or strongly agree that:
  - This school views parents as important partners.
  - The school and I have different goals for my child.
  - My child is learning as much as he/she can at this school.

### Working with parents

**What Parents Say**

- Percent of parents who report that the school does well:
  - Contacts me if my child does something well or improves: 60% (This school), 40% (The state)
  - Contacts me if my child is having a problem: 60% (This school), 40% (The state)
  - Responds to my concerns and requests within a reasonable time: 70% (This school), 50% (The state)
  - Includes parents on school committees such as curriculum, budgets and school improvement: 50% (This school), 30% (The state)
  - Has a parent-teacher conference with me: 40% (This school), 30% (The state)
  - Asks me to volunteer at the school: 60% (This school), 40% (The state)

### Teacher practices and attitudes

**What Teachers Say**

- Percent who say they agree or strongly agree that:
  - They meet with individual parents to solve problems and provide assistance: 20% (This school), NA (The state)
  - Teachers on their team or grade level maintain positive relationships with students’ parents: 80% (This school), NA (The state)
  - Two-way communication between home and school is essential to effective education: 80% (This school), NA (The state)

**What Teachers Say**

- Percent who say they are satisfied or very satisfied with:
  - The extent to which parents and the community are supportive of the school and its program: NA (This school), NA (The state)