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. (Only students in 4th grade and above take the SALT survey.)

Parent Participation Rates

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>This school</th>
<th>R.I. elementary schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Teachers Say

Percent of teachers who agree or strongly agree:

- Parental involvement in school governance is essential to effective education.
  - This school: 80%
  - R.I. elementary schools: 60%

What Parents Say

Percent of parents who report that the school does well:

- Contacts me if my child does something well or improves
  - This school: 60%
  - R.I. elementary schools: 40%

- Contacts me if my child is having a problem
  - This school: 60%
  - R.I. elementary schools: 40%

- Responds to my concerns and requests within a reasonable time
  - This school: 60%
  - R.I. elementary schools: 40%

- Has a parent-teacher conference with me
  - This school: 80%
  - R.I. elementary schools: 60%

- Asks me to volunteer at the school
  - This school: 40%
  - R.I. elementary schools: 20%

Teacher practices and attitudes

Percent who report that at least weekly:

- They meet with individual parents to solve problems and provide assistance.
  - This school: 20%
  - R.I. elementary schools: 10%

- Teachers on their team or grade level maintain positive relationships with students’ parents.
  - This school: 80%
  - R.I. elementary schools: 60%

- Two-way communication between home and school is essential to effective education.
  - This school: 80%
  - R.I. elementary schools: 60%

- They use parents as school resources or volunteers.
  - This school: 40%
  - R.I. elementary schools: 20%