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.

### Engaging Families and Community

#### 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.

**Parent Participation Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage of Parents</th>
<th>This School</th>
<th>R.I. Middle Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

#### What Teachers Say

Percent of teachers who agree or strongly agree:

- Parental involvement in school governance is essential to effective education: 60%
- They use parents as school resources or volunteers: 50%

#### What Parents Say

Percent of parents who report that the school does well:

- Contacts me if my child does something well or improves: 70%
- Contacts me if my child is having a problem: 65%
- Responds to my concerns and requests within a reasonable time: 80%
- Has a parent-teacher conference with me: 90%
- They are home unsupervised 3 or more hours a day, 3 or more days a week: 40%

#### Teacher practices and attitudes

Percent who report that at least weekly:

- They meet with individual parents to solve problems and provide assistance: 40%
- Teachers on their team or grade level maintain positive relationships with students’ parents: 50%
- Two-way communication between home and school is essential to effective education: 60%

Percent who report that at least monthly:

- They use parents as school resources or volunteers: 30%