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.

### Community support

**What Parents Say**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2005-06</th>
<th>2006-07</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This school</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.I. elementary schools</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**What Teachers Say**

- Percentage of teachers who agree or strongly agree:
  - Parental involvement in school governance is essential to effective education.
  - Contacts me if my child does something well or improves.
  - Contacts me if my child is having a problem.
  - Responds to my concerns and requests within a reasonable time.
  - Has a parent-teacher conference with me.
  - Asks me to volunteer at the school.

### Working with parents

**What Teachers Say**

- Percentage of teachers who agree or strongly agree:
  - They use parents as school resources or volunteers.
  - That the community supports this school.
  - The extent to which parents and the community are supportive of the school and its program.

### Teacher practices and attitudes

**What Teachers Say**

- Percentage of teachers who report that at least weekly:
  - They meet with individual parents to solve problems and provide assistance.
  - Teachers on their team or grade level maintain positive relationships with students’ parents.
  - Two-way communication between home and school is essential to effective education.

**What Teachers Say**

- Percentage of teachers who report that at least monthly:
  - They use parents as school resources or volunteers.

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