



# REACH...

*Respect* parent roles and their diversity

*Engagement*, not just involvement

All families want their children to be successful so *Ask* what they need

*Curriculum* of the home

*Help* at home with knowledge and skills

**Strategy Name:** TIPS Language Arts (Teachers Involving Parents in Schoolwork)

**Summary of Strategy:** TIPS Language Arts Interactive Homework process was designed by teachers and researchers at Johns Hopkins University. TIPS interactive homework assignments involve students in demonstrating or discussing homework with a family member. Parents are asked to monitor, interact, and support their children. They are not required to read or direct the students' assignments because that is the students' responsibility. All TIPS homework assignments have a section for home-to-school communication where parents indicate their interaction with the student about the homework. In a study conducted in Baltimore, multiple regression analyses were conducted to statistically control for students' family background, school, grade level, attendance, prior report card grades, prior writing skills, and other variables in order to identify the independent effects of TIPS and family involvement on students' writing skills, report card grades, and student and family attitudes toward TIPS at the end of the school year. Researchers found that parent participation on TIPS added significantly to students' writing scores, doing more TIPS homework positively affected language arts report card grades at the end of the school year, and students with lower report card grades were more positive about TIPS than were more successful students. Parents overwhelmingly appreciated the TIPS activities and the opportunity to interact with their children about their homework

**REACH Links:** *Engagement, not just involvement* and *Help at home with knowledge and skills*.

**Scientifically Based Research Level:** Level 4 Strong Evidence

**Website Links:** <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/tips/TIPSmain.htm>

**Target Audience of Strategy:** All parents of Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

**Training and Follow-up Support for Implementation:** TIPS can be designed for one or more subject areas on any grade level. A team of teachers must outline the learning objectives for the year and identify weekly or bi-weekly skills for student-parent interaction. Then they select, adapt or design a TIPS learning activity. Teachers must orient students and parents to the TIPS activities and then evaluate progress throughout the year. Parents and students are surveyed frequently to monitor their perceptions of family involvement in their homework assignments; their perceptions of family involvement in homework in other subjects; and their general opinions about homework and school.

**Role of the Educator in Implementation:** TIPS activities must be assigned on a regular schedule (e.g., once a week or every other week) to help students share their work, and to keep families aware of what their children are learning in class. Surveys must be conducted with students and families and evaluated frequently.