



Sample Inventory of School and Family Partnerships

(Based on "An Inventory of Present Practices of School, Family, and Community Partnerships" which was developed by Karen Clark Salinas, Joyce L. Epstein, and Mavis G. Sanders of the National Network of Partnership Schools, Johns Hopkins University)

This Iowa version of the inventory will help you identify your school's present practices in three of the six types of parent involvement that create a comprehensive program of school, family, and community partnerships. The inventory has been modified from its original version in order to focus your efforts upon the three components that have been shown to have the most impact on student achievement. **At this time, your school may conduct all, some, or none of the activities listed. Not every activity is appropriate for every school or grade level. You may want to write in other activities that you conduct for each type of involvement.**

The Family Engagement Action Team members should complete this inventory, with input from the teachers, parents, School Improvement Team members and others as appropriate. Each person has different knowledge about the present practices of partnership in your school.

After you complete the inventory, you will want to compare your current practices with research-based practices that have shown promise and with the state and federal requirements for parent involvement to determine possible next steps. After focusing on implementing strategies that impact the 3 types of parent involvement included here, you will want to continually improve your efforts over the long term by working to increase, improve, and/or maintain activities for each of the six types of involvement.

Directions: Check the activities that your school conducts and circle all of the grade levels presently involved. Write in other activities for each type of involvement that your school conducts.

To assess how well each activity is implemented, add these symbols to the check-box:

- * (for very well implemented with all families),
- + (a good start with many families),
- - (needs improvement).

Type 1 – Parenting: Basic Responsibilities of Families

Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students, and assist schools to understand families.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> We sponsor parent education workshops and other courses or training for parents. | K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We provide families with information on child or adolescent development. | K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 |



Tool 2.1

- We conduct family support programs with parent-to-parent discussion groups. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We provide families with information on developing home conditions that support learning. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We lend families books or tapes on parenting or videotapes of parent workshops. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We ask families about children's goals, strengths, and talents. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We sponsor home visiting programs or neighborhood meetings to help families understand schools and to help schools understand families. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We ask families to help us understand their parenting and family needs. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Type 2 – Communicating: Basic Responsibilities Of Schools

Conduct effective communications from school to home and from home to school about school programs and children's progress.

- We have formal conferences with every parent at least once a year. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We provide language translators to assist families as needed. (e.g. in conferences with parents, written communication home, the community survey, homework hotline) K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We provide clear information about report cards and how grades are earned. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- Parents pick up report cards. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- Our school newsletter includes:
 - A calendar of school events K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 - Student activity information K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 - Curriculum and program information K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 - School volunteer information K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 - School policy information K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 - Samples of student writing and artwork K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 - A column to address parents' questions K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 - Recognition of students, families, and community members K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 - Other _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We provide clear information about selecting courses, programs, and/or activities in this school. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We send home folders of student work weekly or monthly for parent review and comments. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- Staff members send home positive messages about students on a regular basis. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We notify families about student awards and recognition. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Tool 2.1

- We contact the families of students having academic or behavior problems. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- Teachers have easy access to telephones to communicate with parents during or after school. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- Parents have the telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses of the school, principal, teachers, and counselors. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We have a homework hotline for students and families to provide reactions to school programs and share information and concerns about students. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We conduct an annual survey for families to provide reactions to school programs and share information and concerns about students. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Type 3 – Learning At Home: Involvement In Academic Activities

Involve families with their children in homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

- We provide information to families on required skills in all subjects. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We provide information to families on how to monitor and discuss schoolwork at home. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We provide information on how to assist students with skills that they need to improve. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We have a regular schedule of interactive homework that requires students to demonstrate and discuss what they are learning with a family member. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We ask parents to listen to their child read or to read aloud with their child. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We provide calendars with daily or weekly activities for families to do at home and in the community. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We help families help students set academic goals, select courses and programs and plan for college work. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We provide workshops where students and parents learn together (active learning). K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- We help families understand the content of what students are learning in school. K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
- _____ K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12