



## **Standards/Questions to Consider When Deciding on a Strategy or Project Related to Increasing Parent Involvement that Improves Student Achievement**

**Source: Conversational Links to Remarkable School-Home Partnerships**  
(Participant's Manual), Frogson Publications, Inc., 1998 (Permission Granted to Use)

### **Standard 1: The project/strategy will improve student achievement.**

#### **1. Is the project/strategy based on real data or information about student achievement in your school or district?**

- Does it improve conditions that contribute to low (or mediocre) achievement, or that will raise achievement to a higher level?
- What information led you to design this parent involvement project? Is it necessary? Does it meet a real need? How do you know?

#### **2. Does the project aim to improve the quality of student work?**

- How will the project improve the quality of student work and help the school-community pay more attention to what students are doing in school?
- Will you or others be looking at student work to see if the project has an impact? How will you do this?

#### **3. Does the project refer to high academic standards?**

- How will it promote understanding of standards in the school-community?
- How will it help parents, teachers, and students look at student work to tell if students are working at a high level?
- Do displays of student work explain the standard it is trying to reach and show a benchmark for high-level work at that age/grade level?
- How will the project help student work meet standards and move up to above average?

#### **4. Why do you think the project will improve student achievement?**

Having more family nights at school is a "good idea," but it's a better idea if they give students the opportunity to demonstrate and explain to family members what they're learning.

- Is the link between project activities, district student achievement goals, the District Career Development Plan, and improved student achievement clear and direct?
- How is it tied to what students are doing in school this year? How is it tied to the instructional strategies teachers are implementing through their professional development?
- How will it advance student learning? What evidence are you basing it on?



**Standard 2: The project/strategy involves a substantial number of parents.**

**1. Are you planning to reach all types of parents in the school-community?**

- Will you be working with parents who are currently not involved?
- Is there any group (or type) of parents who will not be reached by the project/strategy? Why?

**2. Will you engage at least a third of the families in the school?**

Research suggests that one third is a “critical mass” of families that can change the culture of a low-achieving school.

- Will you be involving the parents who can have an impact on the problem your project/strategy is addressing?

**3. How will you reach out to and engage the families you want to include?**

- What key finding(s) cause you to believe your approach will be successful?
- What data are you collecting on outreach strategies to determine if they are reaching the audience you want?
- How and will you analyze the outreach strategies to determine if changes need to be made?

**Standard 3: The project/strategy extends over time, with a lasting impact.**

**1. Will the activities of your project last at least two years?**

- If not, what data are you collecting to indicate if implementation continues past the ending date of the activities?
- Who is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the overall implementation plan?

**2. If your project/strategy is an event, will it happen at least three times during the school year?**

- Will there be related follow-up activities between the events?
- Will key people in the school-community be involved as co-leaders and planners and feel some ownership?
- Will it help other activities or events in the school be more successful?

**3. Will the project become part of standard practice in the school?**

- Could it easily be adopted by the school or a group within the school?
- Will it be part of the school improvement plan?
- How will the project win the support of people of influence and/or key communicators in the community?