



Tool 4.7.1

## Sample Questions to Ask Families to Learn about Their Culture and Their Views on Parent Involvement

1. Please describe what schools are like in the country you come from.
  - At what age do children start school? Stop going to school?
  - Do you have elementary, middle, and high schools?
  - What is a day like in the school?
  - What time do classes start and end? Is there recess? Lunch? Breakfast?
  - What subjects do the students study?
  - Do they do independent work or work as a group?
  - How does the teacher teach (e.g., lecture, project-based, small groups)?
  - What are the teachers called?
  - Is attendance mandatory? Until what age?
  - Is there homework? How often? How much?
  - What are the rules the children must follow? What happens if they break the rules?
  - Are there report cards? How often?
  - How do you find out how your child is doing in school?
  - What does it mean to be successful in school in your country?
  - What are children expected to learn in school?
  - What do parents want their children to learn in school? What are your dreams/expectations for your child?
  - 
  -
2. What are the big differences between schools in the country from which you came and schools in Iowa?
3. How do parents help the teachers? What is their role in helping a child learn?
4. How can the schools help your children be successful? What do you want or expect from the schools?
5. What kind of information do you want from the teacher? The school? What would help you?
6. What is the best way to give you this information? To whom should we give the information?
7. What do you do to help your child do well in school? What would you like to do? How can parents and teachers work together to help the child do well in school?
8. What would help the teacher/school better understand your child and your family?
9. What can the teacher/school do to help you feel more comfortable contacting us?  
Working with your child at home? Coming to school?