Strategies for Engaging Parents Resource Bundle

I. Strategies for Engaging Parents Resource

II. References
## What are some ways that schools can engage parents?

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<th>Reach Out</th>
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| - Learn parents’ communication preferences.  
- Contact parents to share information about student performance, behavior, struggles, and successes.  
- Provide information on learning goals for your course/grade level.  
- Provide information on ways parents can support their child’s learning at home.  
- Balance negative communication with positive communication.  
- Convey positive beliefs about their child’s potential. |

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<th>Build Relationships</th>
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| - Make yourself available.  
- Have *dialogue* with parents rather than simply sending messages.  
- Actively listen.  
- Seek to understand parents’ interests, needs, beliefs, and goals for their children.  
- Show respect for parents’ knowledge and skills.  
- Treat parents as co-educators - not just “helpers.”  
- Ask for parents’ opinions and feedback, use it, and follow up. |

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<th>Invite Participation</th>
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| - Encourage parents to talk with their children about what they’re learning in school.  
- Invite parents to school; model ways they can teach/practice different skills with their children at home.  
- Invite parents to participate in school functions.  
- Involve parents in school decisions and promote parent leadership.  
- Create opportunities for parents to participate in classroom activities.  
* (For secondary students): Involve parents in post-secondary planning. |

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*(Epstein, 1995; Henderson & Mapp, 2002; Kim et al., 2013; Lewis, Kim, & Ashby-Bey, 2011; Seitsinger et al., 2008)*


