



Expanded School Mental Health in West Virginia

www.schoolmentalhealthwv.org

FEBRUARY 2012

Family Engagement

Tool Kit #7

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SCHOOL-WIDE FOUNDATION OF LEARNING SUPPORTS:

**“Formal policies and practices to
assess and strengthen parent and
family involvement”**

West Virginia Expanded School Mental Health Steering Team, 2011

Strong parental involvement with schools is associated with academic achievement, regardless of socio-economic status or parent education. At the school level, practices that promote family engagement include:

- A welcoming environment—friendly signs welcoming families and visitors
- Standards of welcoming behavior that apply to all staff
- Programs and activities that engage families in promoting student achievement (e.g., student work displayed throughout the building, workshops, learning kits and other activities to show families how to help their child at home);
- Strong relationships between teachers and families—frequent opportunities to meet face to face; teachers making personal monthly contact via phone;
- Activities to develop families’ self-confidence (e.g., inviting families to be involved in planning, a school that is open and accessible);
- Professional development for families and staff: opportunities to learn together.
- Frequent and clear communications with parents about services and supports through the student handbook, website and parent orientations.



West Virginia Resources

- **West Virginia Department of Education Parents 21 Initiative:**
<http://wvde.state.wv.us/parents21/>
- **West Virginia Department of Education Title 1 Resources** for parent involvement policies and communication:
<http://wvde.state.wv.us/title1/>
- **West Virginia Parent Connections at Edvantia** is a Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC) funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Their purpose is to help schools and school districts adopt parent involvement activities that lead to improved student achievement and stronger partnerships between families and educators.
<http://www.edvantia.org>



General Resources

- **National Center for School Engagement:**
<http://www.schoolengagement.org/>
- **Family Involvement Resource Packet, Center for School Mental Health Assistance:** http://csmh.umaryland.edu/resources/CSMH/resourcepackets/files/family_involvement_2002.pdf

DEFINITION: “Expanded school mental health” refers to programs that build on core services typically provided by schools. It is a framework that:

- ♦ includes the full continuum of prevention, early intervention and treatment
- ♦ serves all students
- ♦ emphasizes shared responsibility between schools, mental health providers and other community partners

Family Engagement

- **Ten Things Schools Can Do to Create Great Family – School Partnerships:**
<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/fscp/pdf/tk10schools-can-do.pdf>
- **How Family Friendly Is Your School?**
http://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=DMAj_U7iQqU%3D&tabid=3479
- **Four Versions of Family-School Partnerships:**
http://www.thenewpress.com/resource_files/BeyondtheBakeS_070620160328_8884.pdf
- **Engaging Families to Improve Academic Achievement—Advice from the Research:**
<http://www.ncpie.org/pubs/AdviceEngagingFamilies.pdf>
- **National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education:** <http://www.ncpie.org>
- **Harvard Family Research Project:**
<http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement>

The purpose of this series of information briefs is to provide a common framework and recommendations to assist schools and community mental health providers to more effectively develop a comprehensive approach to school mental health that is consistent with current West Virginia Department of Education policies.




These recommendations and resources have been reviewed and approved by West Virginia's Expanded School Mental Health Steering Team. For more information contact info@schoolmentalhealthwv.org

For more information visit
www.schoolmentalhealthwv.org

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