



**S** School  
**F** Family  
**C** Community  
**P** Partnership

Naperville Community Unit  
School District 203

# Epstein Model of Involvement

A framework of six types of involvement is used to develop comprehensive programs of school, family and community partnership and link to individual school goals.

## **Type 1 — Parenting**

Assist families with parenting and child-rearing skills, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions that support children as students at each age and grade level. Assist schools in understanding families.

## **Type 2 — Communicating**

Communicating with families about school programs and student progress through effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications.

## **Type 3 — Volunteering**

Improve recruitment, training, work and schedules to involve families as volunteers and audiences at the school or in other locations to support students and school programs.

## **Type 4 — Learning at Home**

Involve families with their children in learning activities at home, including homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

## **Type 5 — Decision Making**

Include families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy through Home & School, school councils, committees, action teams, and other parent organizations.

## **Type 6 — Community Collaboration**

Coordinate community resources and services for students, families, and the school with businesses, agencies, and other groups, and provide services to the community.

## Caring for the Children We Share

In 1996, District 203's Board of Education adopted the School Family Community Partnership policy which expressed their desire to promote a partnership between schools, families and the communities they serve.

This initiative is based on the research of Dr. Joyce Epstein of Johns Hopkins University. She states, "The main reason to create partnerships is to help all youngsters succeed in school and in later life. When parents, teachers, students and others view one another as partners in education, a caring community forms around students and begins its work."

Dr. Epstein's model recognizes the three major contexts in which students learn and grow—the family,

the school, and the community. In this model, there are some practices that schools, families, and communities conduct separately and some they conduct jointly in order to influence children's learning and development.

These partnership activities are designed to engage, guide, energize, and motivate students to create their own successes.

### Mission

The Mission of District 203's SFCP is to enhance our children's learning and development by being a proactive resource in promoting, strengthening and celebrating the partnership that exists between schools, families and the community.



## Activities

To achieve our mission, we use the Epstein model of six types of involvement: Parenting, Communicating, Volunteering, Learning-At-Home, Decision Making and Collaborating with Community.

Individual schools develop custom programs within these six areas to help achieve their specific school improvement goals and provide opportunities for parents and members of the community to become active partners in the education of their children at each grade level.

These programs include activities such as: a survival guide for high school parents, study skills workshops for fourth and fifth grade parents, anti-bullying seminars for junior high families, an international night for elementary school families to showcase their cultural heritage, annual parent surveys that cover a range of topics and provide feedback into the school decision-making process, and business partnerships with a wide range of local companies, organizations and agencies at all grade levels.

## National Network of Partnership Schools

All 21 schools in District 203 are members of Dr. Epstein's National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), which includes over 900 schools, 91 districts and 17 state departments of education.

The Network provides a variety of research-based tools and resources to help individual schools achieve their goals.

The District, as well as several individual schools, have been recipients of the NNPS annual Award for Excellence.

## SFCP District Core Team

District 203 has an SFCP Core Team. Their mission is to promote, facilitate and support the individual school Action Team's work and act as liaison to the National Network, other school district initiatives and community organizations.

The team is comprised of parents, principals and staff representatives for the three school levels, as well as members of the Community, District Administration, School Board and Executive Board of Home & School.



# Working Together

The School Family Community Partnership teams work collaboratively with the Home & School Associations at each of our 21 schools.

Each group has a different mission and focuses their activities on different objectives that complement each other in order to provide a breadth of programming for all our District 203 families.

Together, both teams work to support the school principal and staff in delivering the Mission of Naperville Community Unit School District 203: graduating students who think critically, solve problems, make decisions, and have the skills necessary for productive citizenship and life-long learning by providing excellent, comprehensive programs and services in partnership with the community.

We invite all parents, guardians, business and community members to get involved in our School Family Community Partnership.



## The Office of Community Relations

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