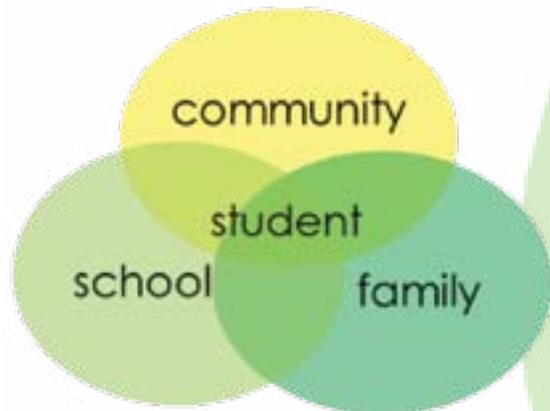


Activities

There are many reasons for developing school, family and community partnerships. They can improve school programs and school climate, provide family services and support, increase parents' skills and leadership, connect families with others in the school and in the community and help teachers with their work. However, the main reason to create such partnerships is to help all students 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. Some examples of successful programs that have been implemented in District 203 schools by school SFCP teams include:

- Back to School/Welcome events
- Coffee With the Principal
- Parent Study Skills
- Cultural Diversity Celebrations
- Math Events
- Literacy Initiatives
- Dad's Breakfast
- Walk/Run/Family Fitness Programs
- New Student and Family Tours
- Parent Guide for High School Parents



Epstein's Overlapping Spheres of Influence

Working Together

The School Family Community Partnership teams work collaboratively to support the school principal and staff in delivering the Mission of Naperville School District 203: graduating students who are self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers and community contributors.

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



For further information please contact:

The Office of Community Relations
Naperville School District 203

203 West Hillside Road
Naperville, IL 60540-6589
Phone: 630-420-6575
Fax: 630-420-1066

Or visit our website at:

www.naperville203.org/Page/1502

The School Family Community Partnership is an organization composed of staff and parent volunteers working together at every school to provide activities for students, families and community members for the purpose of enriching the students' experiences and supporting each school improvement plan.

Naperville School District 203

Epstein's Framework of Six Types of Involvement

Created by Joyce L. Epstein, PhD

Director of the National Network of Partnership Schools

The framework is a tool that District 203 uses to review current best practices and to plan future activities.

LEARNING AT HOME

Provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning.

The benefits of enhancing learning at home are:

- Parents will understand the material their children are responsible for knowing.
- Parents can assist their children with attainment of learning goals.
- Students develop a more positive attitude about homework

COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development.

The benefits of improving community collaborations are:

- Community partners can offer varied mentoring experiences to students.
- Businesses can benefit from the positive public relations of working closely with schools.

VOLUNTEERING

Recruit and organize parent help and support.

The benefits of increasing volunteerism and attendance at school events are:

- Creating a welcoming environment lays the groundwork for positive relationships. By increasing parent, family, and community participation, schools raise awareness of how much their help is needed and appreciated.

PARENTING

Help all families establish home environments to support children as students.

The benefits of helping families enhance their parenting skills are:

- Parents feel the school is supporting them and they are confident that they are helping their children.
- Parents are learning parenting strategies they can use as their children move from one phase of development to another.

DECISION MAKING

Include parents in school decisions, developing parent leaders and representatives.

The benefits of increasing the number of parents in leadership and decision making roles are:

- Parents involved in leadership and decision making roles, become more supportive of the school's efforts and have a better understanding of school issues and priorities.
- By involving parents in leadership and decision making roles, schools are more aware of parents' perspectives.

COMMUNICATING

Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children's progress.

The benefits of enhancing communication with families are:

- Parents feel that they are part of the school community, as they are kept aware of school events and other important school information.
- Parents learn about the school's curriculum, assessments, achievement levels, and reporting methods.
- Parents have the information they need to help their children thrive and achieve.

