

Family and Community Engagement Resources

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), Office of Indian/Multicultural Education will continue to develop monthly communication resources for schools to disseminate to parents each month. Research has shown that students do better in school when their parent/guardian is actively involved. A monthly, one-page resource template is included to assist schools in encouraging parent/guardian involvement. This template is can be customized to meet your school needs.

For each month, the resource includes ideas and opportunities that could be shared with parents. The resources are certainly not inclusive and staff is encouraged to add their own creative ideas and activities related to their school/district.

In study after study, researchers discover how important it is for parents to be actively involved in their child's education.

Studies find students with involved parents are more likely to:

1. have higher grades and test scores
2. pass their classes, earn credits, and be promoted
3. attend school regularly
4. have better social skills, show good behavior, and adapt well to school
5. graduate and go on to further education¹

When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed not just in school, but throughout life. In fact, the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student's family is able to:

1. create a home environment that encourages learning
2. express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for their children's achievement and future careers²

The Parent Institute, *Selected Parent Involvement Research* A summary of selected research compiled by Dr. John H. Wherry, President, The Parent Institute, P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474, U.S.A.^{1, 2}



September

The following resources may be disseminated to families/communities during the month of September.

- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):** The NDDPI staff continue to review the law and will engage in deliberate stakeholder involvement throughout this process through the formation of the ESSA Planning Committee. For more information, go to www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/SSI/ESSA/.
- **The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):** Was signed into law on December 10, 2015. It reauthorizes the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was previously reauthorized as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The new law builds on key areas of progress in recent years and ongoing efforts to improve educational opportunities for all students. For more information, go to www.ed.gov/essa.
- **NDDPI District-School Parental Involvement Policies and School Parent Compact:** Schools/districts are required to develop NDDPI policies to involve parents as partners in the education of their children. September is an opportune time to share these policies with parents. This website provides information on meeting the requirements. For more information, go to www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/TitleI/Targeted/parentinvolve/.
- **Fall Parent Meeting:** The NDDPI law requires schools/districts to host an annual parent meeting to explain what the NDDPI program is and how parents can be involved in the program. (This is different from the Annual Review meeting, which is also required). September is the perfect time to provide parents with information regarding this meeting (i.e., date, time, and place). For more information, go to www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/TitleI/Targeted/parentinvolve/TAannualparentmeeting/.
- **To Combat Chronic Absenteeism,** the U.S. Department of Education, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and the Ad Council have partnered to create a public service campaign, *Absences Add Up*. The campaign features a series of digital and out-of-home PSAs that drive parents to AbsencesAddUp.org. On the website, parents are empowered with information and resources to help ensure their children attend school each day.
- **The Parent-Teacher Conference: 5 Must-Ask Questions:** In order to help your children have a successful school year, you need to know what is expected of them, academically, from now until June. You can find out by asking some questions. Take this list with to your next parent-teacher conference. For a list of questions, go to www.familyeducation.com/school/questions-teacher/parent-teacher-conference-5-must-ask-questions.
- **Top 10 Homework Tips:** Kids are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in their homework—it shows kids what they do is important. Of course, helping with homework shouldn't mean spending hours hunched over a desk. Parents can be supportive by demonstrating study and organization skills, explaining a tricky problem, or just encouraging kids to take a break. And who knows? Parents might even learn a thing or two! For more information, go to <http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/homework.html>.