

Epstein's Six Types of Parent Involvement

Dr. Joyce Epstein of Johns Hopkins University has developed a framework for defining six different types of parent involvement. This framework assists educators in developing school and family partnership programs.

Epstein's Framework of Six Types of Involvement

- 1. Parenting:** Help all families establish home environments to support children as students.
 - Parent education and other courses or training for parents (e.g., GED, college credit, family literacy).
 - Family support programs to assist families with health, nutrition, and other services.
 - Home visits at transition points to elementary, middle, and high school.
- 2. Communicating:** Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children's progress.
 - Conferences with every parent at least once a year.
 - Language translators to assist families as needed.
 - Regular schedule of useful notices, memos, phone calls, newsletters, and other communications.
- 3. Volunteering:** Recruit and organize parent help and support.
 - School/classroom volunteer program to help teachers, administrators, students, and other parents.
 - Parent room or family center for volunteer work, meetings, and resources for families.
 - Annual postcard survey to identify all available talents, times, and locations of volunteers.
- 4. 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.
 - Information for families on skills required for students in all subjects at each grade.
 - Information on homework policies and how to monitor and discuss schoolwork at home.
- 5. Decision-making:** Include families as participants in school decisions and develop parent leaders and representatives.
 - Active PTA/PTO or other parent organizations, advisory councils, or committees (e.g., curriculum, safety) for parent leadership and participation.
 - District-level advisory councils and committees.
- 6. Collaborating with Community:** Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community.
 - Provide information for students and families on community health, cultural, recreational, social support, and other programs or services.
 - Provide information on community activities that link to learning skills and talents, including summer programs for students.