



**Highlighting Parent
Involvement in Education**

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The Big Picture

Research shows that parent involvement influences the college enrollment of low income – first generation students.

The results suggest that allocating resources to promote parental involvement is an effective approach for programs that are designed to increase the college enrollment process of underrepresented students.



Defining Parent/Family Involvement

- The expectations that a parent/family has for their child
- The direct and indirect participation and involvement in the student's academic and social lives



The Influence of the Environment

- Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory – children learn from observing, modeling and imitation
- The earlier parent involvement begins the more powerful the effects
- The most effective forms of parental involvement engage parents in working directly with their children on learning activities at home



Types of Parent/Family Involvement

- Parenting
- Learning at home
- Communication
- Volunteering
- Decision making in the school
- Collaborating with community



Parent/Family Involvement and Socioeconomic Status (SES)

- SES is a family's economic and social position based on education, income, and occupation
- Parents of high SES tend to be more involved in their child's education



Parent/Family Involvement as Social Capital

- How does social capital influence college access and success?
- Social Capital- Is the expected collective or economic benefits derived from the preferential treatment and cooperation between individuals and groups



The SAT Benchmark score=1550

- 65% probability of obtaining a first year GPA of B-
- More likely to enroll in a four year college
- Had higher first year GPAs
- Were more likely to be retained for their second and third year than those students who did not attain the SAT benchmark





Students who met the Benchmark of 1550

- 60% of students' parents had a bachelors degree
- While 27% of students' parents had less than a bachelors degree



Parent/Family Involvement and Socioeconomic Status (SES)

Family participation in education is twice as predictive of student's academic success as family socioeconomic status

What Did Parents Say?

- Time
- Language barriers
- College knowledge
 - Specific information on the application process, how to help and what to do
- Early college awareness
- Perception that schools/CBOs want parents involved



Suggestions for Improving Parent/Family Involvement

- Partnership relationship
- Orientation as an event and a process
- Tailor college materials to parents
 - Handbooks and similar print materials
 - Directory



Parent Involvement and College Readiness

A Quick Scan of Research Results

Six Types of Parent Involvement: Joyce Epstein's Framework

- 1. PARENTING – supporting students' learning.**
- 2. COMMUNICATING – developing school-to-home and home-to-school communications.**
- 3. VOLUNTEERING – developing opportunities for parent support of schooling efforts.**
- 4. LEARNING AT HOME – helping students with homework and other curriculum and skills-related activities.**
- 5. DECISION-MAKING – including parents in decisions about education policy, and developing parents as education leaders.**
- 6. COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY – organizing community resources and services to strengthen schooling.**

Research Results: Parent Involvement and Student Outcomes

- Anne Henderson's work:
- *A New Wave of Evidence; The Impact of School, Family and Community Connections on Student Achievement (with Karen Mapp)*
- *Family-School-Community Partnerships: Collaborative Strategies to Advance Student Learning*
- Harvard Family Research Project, reports by Heather Weiss, Elena Lopez and Heidi Rosenberg

New Developments in Parent Involvement

- Parent organizing for school improvement and district education reform.
- Sharing data with parents to improve the outcomes for students, classrooms schools and school districts.
- Providing information to parents about college access and completion to expand college enrollment and increase graduation rates.

Providing information and sharing knowledge about college access and success

- **BEAT THE ODDS study of effective high schools: academic rigor, network of timely supports, culture of college access, effective use of data, parents as key partners.**
- **ACT college-readiness system – EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT testing plus regular parent interviews to share assessment results.**
- **College Success centers and other forms of student (and parent) intervention efforts.**
- **College information and readiness programs such as PARENT COLLEGE in Los Angeles, a multi-year Saturday workshop series to help parents support their children's college access and success.**

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