



PARENTS MATTER

Families In Schools (FIS) understands the impact parent and community engagement have on supporting children's success. FIS makes a distinction between parent involvement and parent engagement.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Describes how parents participate at home and at school in their child's education

VS.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Describes the work of schools and organizations as they engage parents to become involved in their child's education

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

As their child's first teachers, research consistently demonstrates the impact of parental involvement on the following areas:

Language Socialization

When parents are involved in their children's language acquisition and development, children demonstrate higher language skills (Heath, 2008) and their literacy outcomes continue into adulthood (Desforges & Abouchaar, 2003).

Academic Socialization

Families' ability to communicate academic expectations and foster educational and occupational aspirations are the most effective ways families can support their child's college access during the middle and high school years (Hill, 2009; Rosenberg, 2010; National Assessment of Education Progress, 2000).

Substance Abuse

Kids who learn a lot about the risk of drugs and alcohol from their parents are up to 50% less likely to use than those who do not (Drugfreeamerica.org, 2013).

Financial Education

Parents' influence on money is 1.5 times greater than that of financial education and more than twice that of friends' influence (The University of Arizona, 2011).

Academic Achievement

When families are involved in children's academic lives, grades improve, test scores rise, and even students' attitudes toward schoolwork improve (Henderson & Berla, 1994).

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Parental involvement and great schools are inseparable. Research points to a large body of evidence for building strong family-school partnerships.

- **Academic benefits.** Students complete more homework, are placed in special education less often, and enroll in postsecondary education more frequently when families and schools work together. In a climate in which schools are increasingly pressured to raise student achievement and test scores, facilitating these out-of-school influences is critical.
- **Behavioral benefits.** The benefits of a strong family-school relationship extend beyond academic work. Other benefits of family involvement in schooling include improved behavior at school, higher attendance rates, lower drop-out rates, higher self esteem, and higher probability of avoiding high-risk behavior in adolescence.

