

Joyce Epstein's 6 Types of Parental Involvement

The framework of six types of involvement helps educators develop more comprehensive programs of school-family-community partnerships.

Each type of involvement includes many different practices of partnership. Each type has particular challenges that must be met in order to involve all families, and each type requires redefinitions of some basic principles of involvement. Finally, each type leads to different results for students, families, and teachers.

Although all schools may use the framework of six types of involvement as a guide, each school must *choose* practices that will help achieve important goals and meet the needs of its students and families.

● **TYPE 1--PARENTING:** Assist families with parenting and child-rearing skills, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions that support children as students at each age and grade level. Assist schools in understanding families.

● **TYPE 2--COMMUNICATING:** Communicate with families about school programs and student progress through effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications.

● **TYPE 3--VOLUNTEERING:** Improve recruitment, training, work, and schedules to involve families as volunteers and audiences at the school or in other locations to support students and school programs.

● **TYPE 4--LEARNING AT HOME:** Involve families with their children in learning activities at home, including homework and other curriculum-linked activities and decisions.

● **TYPE 5--DECISION MAKING:** Include families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy through PTA/PTO, school councils, committees, and other parent organizations.

● **TYPE 6--COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY:** Coordinate resources and services *for* families, students, and the school with businesses, agencies, and other groups, and provide services *to* the community.