

New York State



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Effective Home-School Community Relationships

NYS PTA WEBINAR SERIES 2017-18

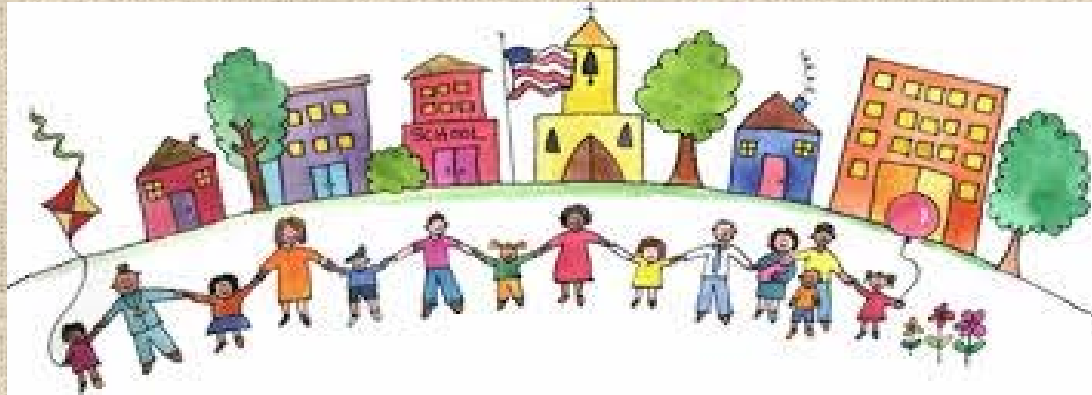
Antoinette Darden-Cintron, NYS PTA LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Building Great Relationships with School and District Leadership



OBJECTIVES

- **Gain an understanding of Family & School Community Relationships**
- **Learn best practices of fostering effective relationships within your school community**
- **Understand how schools and families can engage more within the school community**



Where can anyone find an opportunity to impact a child's world as easily and as well as in a school or home, helping children to grow and develop, while influencing, engaging, and making an impact in their education at its foundation?

Moreover, who is more capable of guiding families and communities through that process?

What are the Family Interactions?

- **Families who avoid schools like the plague**
- **Families who need encouragement to come to school**
- **Families who readily respond when invited to school**
- **Families who are comfortable and enjoy involvement in school**
- **Families who enjoy power and are overly active**

Family Involvement Barriers

Family Barriers	School Community Barriers
Families Don't have enough time	Administrators are too busy
Families feel like they don't have anything to contribute	Misperceptions of family abilities
Families don't understand the systems/don't know how to be involved	Lack of an understanding of family communication style
Lack of child care	Lack of training to work with families
Families feel intimidated	Lack of understanding family attitudes toward engagement
Family schedule conflicts	Cultural differences
Language and cultural differences	View that families value extra-curricular activities vs academics
Lack of Transportation	Negative contacts more frequent
Families don't feel welcome in schools	School communities don't feel respected by families



Family-School Community Relationships

National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



[PTA.org/excellence](https://www.pta.org/excellence)



Best Practices for Family and School Community Partnerships

CREATE A WELCOMING SCHOOL CLIMATE:

1. Provide a personal greeting and welcome packet for all families visiting the school, including a community services directory, important school contact information, school calendar and coupons to local businesses.
2. Have teachers make personal contacts with families through e-mail, phone calls or home visits.
3. Hold an open house, prior to school opening, at which families can meet their children's teachers, tour the school building and meet other parents.
4. Provide transportation and child care to enable families to attend school-sponsored, family-involvement events.
5. Offer translators to welcome and assist families during school activities
6. Ensure that all staff understands the cultural make-up of the community, how to effectively engage with all cultures and how to infuse different cultures into the school community

Best Practices for Family and School Community Partnerships

HELP ALL FAMILIES TO ESTABLISH HOME ENVIRONMENTS THAT SUPPORT CHILDREN AS STUDENTS:

1. Accommodate family work schedules for meetings and events
2. Develop opportunities for training families on education issues and new programs and curriculum students will engage in
3. Engage families in after-school programs and youth development opportunities
4. Provide "home visits" via webinars helping families transition through changes in schools (from elementary to middle school to high school to college and career)
5. Provide ideas for creating homework centers at home, best study environments, and free resources in the community to support learning at home

Best Practices for Family and School Community Partnerships

DESIGN MORE EFFECTIVE SCHOOL-TO-HOME COMMUNICATIONS:

1. End digital gaps by providing discounted lap-tops/tablets for families and software training
2. Have language translators to assist families as needed via written and oral communications, including in-person and over the phone
3. Review the quality of all translations
4. Websites should be easily accessible to all families and information should be found quickly
5. Updated teacher websites at all times
6. Provide information and training on the levels of communication throughout the school district

Best Practices for Family and School Community Partnerships

BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING

1. Work to match the talents and interests of families to the needs of students, teachers, and administrators
2. School communities can give families meaningful roles in the decision-making process and provide training and information so they can make the most of such opportunities.
3. Meet the challenges that many families face by providing transportation to meetings/programs/events and provide child-care
4. Families and the community as a whole should be a part of the decision-making process at all levels of a school district community

Best Practices for Family and School Community Partnerships

COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY:

1. Teach families about all levels of the school community (from school aides, teachers, principals, district administration, and school boards)
2. Inform families of district practices such as, how to sign up for school and district communities
3. Educate families how to share ideas, volunteer, and share concerns
4. Help families understand the protocol and procedures at school board meetings and the structure of the district over all
5. Provide and share resources with families from local community businesses and services, such as, healthcare services, cultural events, and tutoring services
6. Collaborate with local business to provide discounts from restaurants and services like car washes, and visits to the cleaners

MORE WAYS TO ENHANCE FAMILY & SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A Place For Families to Gather



Career Day



What do we ALL want?

How do we get it?

- 1. Commitment to the best for all of the school community**
- 2. Engaging in decision-making and the sharing of ideas**
- 3. Work towards the common goal of our community and our children**
- 4. Understand how our schools and district works**
- 5. Get to know our local government**
- 6. Gather and share resources**
- 7. Understand key education laws, rights, and initiatives; federal/state/local**

Family. School. Community.



Any Questions?