

New York State

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## Leading the Way



Parent involvement in their children's education has an impact on student success, not just in school but throughout life!

When families are involved, students:

- Earn higher grades;
- Enjoy school more and behave better;
- Attend school more regularly; and
- Are more likely to go on to postsecondary education or successful career.



# Meaningful Family Engagement Matters

Family Engagement is a school-family-community partnership that raises student achievement, improves school and community relations, and increases public support for our schools.

We are especially pleased that the state has invested in the My Brother's Keeper program, and are encouraged by the new Office of Family Engagement at the NYS Education Department. Family engagement is also a critical element in the recently-approved NYS Every Student Succeeds Act Plan.

**However, this work is just beginning, and NYS PTA supports:**

- Increased funding and programmatic support for ALL schools or districts that want to improve their family engagement initiatives;
- Support for parent and family education on critical issues facing students; and
- Funding for parent and family organizations that are already uniquely situated to foster meaningful family engagement efforts on a statewide basis, especially in the absence of federal grant programs.

The steps to building a successful family engagement initiative include: (1) assessment of current practices for engaging families and community in improving school climate and student success; (2) planning based on the assessment, survey findings and discussions with stakeholders; (3) presentation of the action plan to the school community for feedback and buy-in; (4) putting the plan into action, and monitoring progress throughout the school year; (5) documenting and sharing successes; and (6) exploring how schools can build on accomplishments.

**Family engagement can be expressed with interlocking puzzles pieces:**

- Welcoming All Families;
- Communicating Effectively;
- Supporting Student Success;
- Speaking Up for Every Child;
- Sharing Power; and
- Collaborating with Community.

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