

PURE *FACT SHEET*

Why should parents be involved in their children's education?

- Programs designed with strong parent involvement produce students who perform better than otherwise identical programs without parent involvement.
- Children whose parents help them at home and stay in touch with the school produce higher scores on key tests.
- Schools where children are failing improve dramatically when parents are called in to help.

Parents have a right to become involved in the public schools their children attend.

Some rights are based on the U. S. Constitution, federal or state laws, or Supreme Court rulings. Others might more accurately be defined as “expectations” or “fundamental human rights.” They are not spelled out in legislation or court rulings but come from the basic principles of our democracy which demand that public institutions are responsive and accountable to the needs of the people they serve.

Public schools are supported by tax dollars. Superintendents, principals, teachers, and other school personnel are public officials accountable to the school board and the public. So, parents and the community can expect to be informed and consulted about the policies, practices, and programs of the schools their children attend.

Many school districts encourage parent and community involvement in the schools. Others do not have effective parent involvement policies, programs, or practices. Sometimes it is up to parents to assert our rights to participate in and be consulted about our children's education.

Some of the major benefits of parent involvement are:

- High grades and test scores
- Long-term academic achievement
- Positive student attitudes and behavior
- More effective schools.

Adapted from “Parent Involvement”, Center for Law and Education 1992