

Partnership Roles Families Can Fill

With a little encouragement, flexibility, and training, family members can fill myriad meaningful roles in helping schools encourage children's learning. Sometimes, families are an excellent means for schools to reach other families, inviting them into the circle of involvement and awareness at school, offering friendship and support beyond school. Often, the relationships that blossom among parents, teachers, students, and school administrators are as important as the activities, themselves.



Following, is a brief list of ideas to expand the traditional roles schools often assign parents and other family members. Some don't require volunteers to set foot in the school. Add your own ideas to this list, using the opportunities your school already offers, or create a "wish list" of new possibilities from families, themselves!

Family members can serve as:

- Partnership Action Team members
- Task force and advisory committee members
- Program evaluators
- Co-trainers for inservices
- Paid program staff
- Mentors for families
- Grant reviewers
- Participants in the needs assessment process
- Reviewers of audiovisual and written materials
- Daily student attendance monitors
- Group facilitators
- At-home or in-school volunteers
- Community advocates
- Focus group participants
- Photographers at school events
- Survey designers, distributors, and takers
- Website designers and listserv facilitators
- School greeters and tour guides for families
- Food and book drive organizers
- Conference presenters and participants
- Members of long-range planning and school improvement efforts
- Planners and workers at school events
- Tutors of students and family members
- Editors and writers for school publications
- Room parents and grandparents
- Oral history interviewees
- Teachers of skills, crafts, and stories
- Fund raisers
- Other: _____.