

Type 2: Two-Way Communicating

Develop effective ways for the school to communicate with individual families, as well as all families, and for families to communicate with the school.

Sample Practices

- Send home weekly folders of student work for parents to review
- Ask for parent feedback on school issues in weekly school newsletters
- Regularly update families on what children are learning in the classroom and how parents can help at home
- Host and regularly update school Internet sites or phone lines to inform families about homework, grades, and student progress
- Clearly inform families about course selection, making transitions to the next level, and the programs within each school
- Disseminate clear information about school rules and policies
- Survey families and publicize survey results
- Send home staff directories listing options for how and when to contact staff, and their respective areas of knowledge
- Feature language translators at all school events for families who need them.

Challenges

- Establish open, flexible channels that encourage parents to communicate with the school
- Create written and oral forms of communication that are clear and accessible to all families
- Obtaining feedback from families on improving the design, content, and function of school-home communications, including newsletters, websites, and opportunities to meet.