

Type 4: Learning at Home

Provide information for families on how they can help children learn, including skills students need to do well in each class at school, helping with homework and monitoring school progress, and making decisions about courses and curriculum. Also, responding to families' ideas and questions for encouraging learning at home, meeting families' needs, and involving families in curriculum-related decisions at school.

Sample Practices

- Disseminate information on school homework and grading policies and how to help at home
- Tell families what children are learning in each subject and what resources are available to help at home
- Equip families with specific skills to supplement classroom learning and improve student learning (i.e., how to read aloud, how to multiply fractions, etc.)
- Invite families to help their child set annual learning goals and plan ahead for the next level of school or work
- Provide frequent opportunities for parents to talk with teachers about their child's learning in conferences, forums, e-mails, and phone calls.
- Invite a panel of parents at teacher inservice to describe how the school can help keep families connected to children's learning.

Challenges

- Eliminate barriers of understanding, distance, and time to keep all families well-informed about and engaged in the "learning loop" of studying, homework, grading, testing.
- Use the interest, service, and skills of families and community members to help students identify and improve strengths; overcome challenges.