

Foreword

Welcome to DPI's Online Toolkit to help schools build a Partnership Action Team.

One of the most important things schools can do for children is to welcome and involve their families in learning. Study after study has shown that children learn more, stay in school longer, and go to better schools when parents and family members are involved.

DPI put this toolkit together to bring the best research-based partnerships to every school in Wisconsin. Use it to strengthen your Partnership Action Team where you are and when you need it.

Even though your partnerships will be different from any other school's — because your school is as unique as the children and families in it — we all have something in common. Developing effective partnerships takes time, discussion, and commitment from everybody in a child's life at school and at home.

I encourage you to look through this toolkit with your partnership team. It will help your school recognize how it reaches out to families, how to extend that reach, and how to achieve your school goals with the active support of families.

We know that whatever we accomplish at school, we can do better, quicker, and more lasting when parents are on board. When every family is involved, every child can be a graduate.

Thanks for all you do.

Tony Evers, PhD
State Superintendent