



WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

Authentic Family Partnerships

Authentic family partnerships happen when families and school staff work together to support students' social, emotional, and academic development. This requires regular, meaningful connection in ways that honor families' backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. This is one of the [10 indicators of schoolwide SEL](#), which outline what high-quality SEL looks like when part of students' daily educational experiences. Read our [full research snapshot](#) to learn more.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?



Frameworks

Evidence-based approaches for family partnerships that eliminate barriers and help educators and parents actively support student learning include Equitable Community-School Collaboration, Dual Capacity-Building Framework, and the Family Engagement Playbook.



Necessary Conditions

Effective partnerships require full school-community buy-in, trusting relationships between teachers and parents, opportunities for collaboration and decision-making, recognition of parents' expertise and knowledge, and strong two-way communication.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Academic Achievement

Family engagement in schools is linked to improved academic achievement, including students' grades, standardized test scores, and academic attitudes and behaviors.

Social Skills

When schools partner closely with families, students have improved peer relationships, increased social skills, and fewer disruptive behaviors.

Well-Being

These partnerships are an important factor in mental health outcomes across grade levels, race, and diverse school settings.