

C. Evaluation of Parent Involvement in Public Schools

1. Context Evaluation

Questions	How to Answer the Questions	Resources
<p>Demographic Information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the parent new to the school? 2. Is the parent new to United States? 3. Is English the parent's native language? If not, can the parent speak English fluently? 4. Is the parent living in temporary housing? 5. Is the parent a single parent? 6. Is the parent working full time? 7. What is the parent's education level? 8. Is the parent on public assistance? 9. Are the parents' needs being met by the school? 10. As a resource, are the parents being utilized to their full potential? 11. Are the goals of the parents being met by the school? 	<p>School record review</p>	<p>Possible instruments can be found in <i>Even Start</i> (Kopacsi & Koopmans, 1992). ERIC Reproduction Service No. ED 360 340.</p>

Questions	How to Answer the Questions	Resources
<p>Level of Involvement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do the parents do the following things? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --ask for their child's test results --ask to see school records --attend the appraisal and review committee meetings --attend the IEP conferences --attend school progress conferences --request a conference --recommend curriculum content to the teacher --recommend disciplinary procedures to the teacher --ask the teacher what they can do to help the child at home --take notes in a conference --question the teacher's instructional plan for their child --tell the teacher when things are going well --tell the teacher when there is a problem --ask to visit their child's classroom --send notes of appreciation to school personnel --attend PTA or other school/parent association meetings --attend a parent workshop or training session if one is available --run or help run a parent meeting or group 	<p>Observations and school record review</p>	<p>Meeting minutes</p>
<p>Interaction with School Personnel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do the parents feel welcome at school? 2. Are they encouraged to set goals for particular programs with the school? 3. Are they encouraged to bring their concerns about the school to the attention of the administrator? 4. Are they encouraged to participate in staff selections for the school? 	<p>Survey to parents and teachers</p>	<p><i>Assessment of the Neighborhood School Councils and Other Organized School/Community Groups</i> (District of Columbia Public Schools, 1980). ERIC Reproduction Service No. ED 192 452.</p>

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<p>Organization:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a school organization where parents are involved that makes critical decisions about schools? 2. If yes, (a) who is in charge of the organization? (b) How are the members chosen? (c) Is the concern of representatives taken into consideration? (d) How often do the members meet? 3. If no, how are the parents involved? 	<p>Observations of meetings, examination of meeting minutes and interviews with school principals</p>	<p>See above</p>

2. Input Evaluation

Questions	How to Answer the Questions	Resources
<p>Activities: Are there guidelines for and to encourage parent involvement in the following areas? (1) classroom; (2) audiovisual assistant; (3) aiding school counselor; (4) office assistant; (5) school hospitality; (6) departmental aide; (7) library aide; (8) testing service; (9) talent enrichment; (10) school security; (11) after school aide; (12) resource room aide; (13) field trip assistant; (14) playground aide; (15) reading teacher assistant; (16) attendance aide; (17) theme reader; (18) health clinic aide; (19) lab assistant; (20) emergency aide assistant.</p>	<p>Surveys to school personnel and parents</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Teacher Involvement: 1. Do teachers receive recognition or compensation for time spent on parent involvement activities? 2. Do teachers receive inservice training to understand effective parent involvement practices?</p>	<p>Interview principal, teachers, and administrative staff</p>	<p>See above</p>

3. Process Evaluation

Questions	How to Answer the Questions	Resources
<p>Equity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is any special effort made to encourage minority parents to get involved in school activities? 2. Are there procedures taken so that single parents, full-time working parents, foreign born parents are able to be involved in their child's education? Procedures could be meetings held in the evenings; transportation is provided; interpreter is arranged; baby-sitter is hired, etc. 3. What may hinder this type of involvement/activity? 	<p>Survey to parents and observation of teacher/parent meetings</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Communication:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are the parents normally given information: by telephone, by letters sent to homes, by notes taken by the children, by children orally? 2. Is there a network among parents? between school personnel and parents? between central office and parents? 3. Does the school provide parent training workshops to encourage parent involvement? 4. Is there a formal procedure parents can take to file grievances? 5. Is there a school/family connection to deal with important issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, and dropout prevention? 	<p>Survey and interviews with parents, school personnel</p>	<p>See above</p>

4. Product Evaluation

Questions	How to Answer the Questions	Resources
<p>Outcome and Impact:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do school staff maintain a positive attitude toward parent involvement, thereby increasing interaction between school and community? 2. Do teachers know parents by name and treat them with respect and dignity? 3. Does the principal make personal contacts (by phone or in person), asking for comments and concerns? 4. Are special cultural awareness fairs sponsored in schools where there are children from other countries or cultures to help other students and parents appreciate the cultural diversity? 5. How many parents were involved in each school-sponsored activity last year? 6. How have the parents contributed to the running of the school over the past year? 7. What problems have parents indicated would hold them back from getting involved in future school events or activities? 	<p>Interviews with school personnel, parents; school record review</p>	<p>See above</p>