

“Including Every Parent”

This is a program developed by a non-profit organization called, Project for School Innovation (PSI). Project for School Innovation was founded by Neighborhood House Charter School.

Based on the Model School, the O’Hearn School

I. Why Involve Parents?

- a. Research shows: 1994 Book, *An New Generation of Evidence: The Family Is Critical to Student Achievement*, by Anne Henderson and Nancy Berla.; that the evidence is now beyond dispute. When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed not just in school, but throughout life.
- b. A review by Development Laboratory states that students whose parents take an active role in their schools are more likely to:
 1. Earn higher grades and test scores
 2. Enroll in more higher level programs
 3. Attend school regularly
 4. Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits
 5. Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school
 6. Graduate and go on to post-secondary education

II. Guided Principles for involving parents

- a. Prioritize parents
 1. Set meetings around parents schedules
 2. Welcome Parents
 3. Set the right tone
- b. Acknowledge parents as the first teachers
 1. Develop a trust relationship
 2. Empathize with parents and their challenging job of being parent and the first teacher
 3. Establish that teachers and parents are on the same team.
- c. Bring people together
 1. Offer child care
 2. Be flexible about scheduling
 3. Offer a variety of ways parents can be involved.
 4. Value the parent through respect and a welcoming nature
- d. Recognize all contributions
 1. Welcome and engage parents that aren’t always present at the school and visible
 2. Offer solutions--don’t look down on parents or judge them
 3. Honor parents for whatever contribution they are able to make

- e. Harness multiple abilities and availabilities
 - 1. Utilize different abilities and talents of different parents.
 - 2. Allow everyone to find their own place to fit in
- f. Use time well
 - 1. Acknowledge that the parent's time is valuable
 - 2. Have agendas etc. streamlined to respect the parents' time
- g. Reach all families
 - 1. Provide transportation when needed
 - 2. Provide interpretation when needed
 - 3. Provide babysitting
 - 4. Engage an aunt, uncle, grandparent when parents are not available.

III. Goals

- a. Parent Attitudes
 - 1. Parents feel welcome
 - 2. Parents feel that their contributions are valued
- b. Parents Actions
 - 1. Close to 100% of parents are involved in some way
 - 2. Parents are taking leadership, and decision-making roles
- c. Parent Skills
 - 1. Parents are educated about the curriculum
 - 2. Parents are equipped to help with their child's school work
- d. School Culture
 - 1. Principals, teachers, and staff feel that parents are their partners in educating children
 - 2. There is a strong sense of community, a feeling of "family" among parents, teachers, and administrations.

How to implement the program

- I. Hire a Community and Family Coordinator
- II. Have the Community and Family Coordinator along with the teachers to be involved for the first year, attend a training workshop given by PSI, in Boston, Mass.
- III. Purchase the necessary book/video from PSI.
- IV. Develop a handbook for your school, including all the programs to initiate the first year and subsequent years after.
- V. Invite a trained facilitator to your school to help establish the program.

Ideas for implementation

- I. Follow the four important ingredients for making **families feel welcome**, so they are present at your school:
 1. A welcoming principal
 2. A Family Outreach Program
 3. A strong welcome in the entry-level grades
 4. A Family Center
- II. Tools for **recruiting and engaging parents as participants** in diverse school projects and activities:
 1. Parent volunteers
 2. School newsletter
 3. Talent show
 4. Many classroom exhibits
 5. Many parent/teacher meetings. Not just the one open house meeting per year.
- III. Simple, but powerful tools to equip **parents as your partners** in educating their children
 1. Actually having a parent contract
 2. The Home Reading Program
 3. The Book Swap
 4. The After-School Program
 5. Family Math and/or Science night
 6. Family night
- IV. Strategies for **empowering parents** as leaders and decision makers in initiatives to support and improve your school
 1. Parents on a School-Based Management Team
 2. Parent-Initiated Projects

**Cost to Implement
“Including Every Parent”**

1ST YEAR

1 Community and Family Coordinator
\$60,000

Training 5 teachers/1 Community and Family Coordinator*

Air Travel Delta: Tallahassee to Boston @ today's coach rate	\$450
Hotel Accommodations (4 nights)	450
Meals (5 days)	330
Ground Transportation	200
Workshop	30
Book	<u>40</u>
TOTAL	\$1,500 X 6 Participants
= \$9,000	

Ongoing training and workshops in Tallahassee

Fee per day for a trained teacher from Boston to Facilitate in Tallahassee:	\$1,000 X 3 days
= \$3,000	

Flight expenses and accommodations for a trained teacher from Boston to come to Tallahassee and facilitate for 3 days:
\$1,400

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR FIRST YEAR FOR ONE SCHOOL
\$53,400

IMPLEMENTED IN 3 SCHOOLS
\$180,000

*(Pricing at premium rates, no hidden costs)

2nd Year and subsequent years could be the same; however, the trained teachers can train in their own school, and not require teachers to travel to Boston; or they may travel to Boston, but not require the facilitator to come to Tallahassee.

At the model school, O'Hearn School, in Boston, they are using a part-time Community and Family Coordinator. Parents are picking up the slack. This is the ultimate success of the program.

Boston Public Schools now have approximately 20 schools implemented with the "Including Every Parent" program. Boston Public Schools now has a Parent and Family Community Engagement Training Center and administrative office.