

Parents Matter



Parent engagement means

- **Making learning an important part of a child's day**
- **Supporting student learning at home and at school**
- **Participating in the life of the classroom, school and community**

How parent engagement is building student success

When parents are involved in their children's education, everyone benefits – students, parents, teachers, schools and communities. Great schools can become even better places to teach and learn, and student achievement often improves.

What is parent engagement? Why is it important? What are the most effective ways for parents to get involved at home and at school? How can educators benefit from parent engagement and support? This material answers the questions most often asked about parent engagement.

The ministry website has a wide variety of materials for parents of preschool, elementary and secondary students. Learn about full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds at ontario.ca/kindergarten

Parents of elementary students

Find tips on helping your child with reading, writing and math, as well as tips on homework, talking to teachers and more. Tips are available in multiple languages at ontario.ca/abc123

Parents of secondary school students

Ontario schools are offering expanded programs to help meet students' individual learning styles and interests, which will better prepare them for graduation and beyond. Find out more about the Student Success program at ontario.ca/studentsuccess

Learn more about parent engagement in Ontario schools

Visit ontario.ca/EDUparents often to stay updated with new information and resources for parents, educators and community members. You will also learn about these and other parent engagement initiatives:

Parents Reaching Out Grants for School Councils: support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own school community, and finding local solutions to help more parents get involved. These barriers may include: newness to Ontario's education system, geography, language or poverty.

Parents Reaching Out Grants for Regional / Provincial Projects: support initiatives that will enhance parent engagement in public education in support of student achievement and well-being in a region of the province or at the provincial level. These grants help create a welcoming climate in schools and school boards and provide parents with opportunities to build their knowledge and skills in support of student success.

Parent Engagement Office: builds awareness of the positive results of a partnership between parents and schools and shared high expectations for our children and youth, and leads the development of tools and resources to support parent involvement in their children's learning.

At home, at school and in the community...parents matter!

ontario.ca/EDUparents



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Benefits for Parents and Students

As a parent, you have a strong influence on your children's attitudes toward school learning and future success. When you are involved in your children's learning – from kindergarten to high school – you are giving them an important head start in school and in life. How do students and parents benefit?

- Improved student achievement
- More positive attitudes about school
- More success with homework
- Higher rates of high school graduation
- More consistent school attendance
- Fewer behavioural problems
- Opportunities for parents to become involved in the life of the school and the community
- A brighter future for students at school and later in life.

Tips for parents

An engaged parent is an interested parent. Here are just a few of the ways you can become more involved in your children's education from the early years to Grade 12.

- **Demonstrate interest:** ask what happened at school today and create an ongoing dialogue. This helps set the stage for joint student-parent decision making as your children get older.

- **Create a place for studying:** encourage a regular homework time with limited distractions. Set appropriate times for phone calls and leisure time on computers and electronic games.
- **Help with homework:** talk to the teacher to learn more about how you can help your children outside of school. For older students, set priorities for after-school activities, job and chore hours, homework and leisure time.
- **Attend parent-teacher conferences:** develop a plan with the teacher on how to best support your children's learning needs.
- **Participate:** get involved in any way that is comfortable – whether it's parent information nights, volunteer activities, arts and sporting events or school council.
- **Stay informed:** find out what is happening in the classroom, the school and the school community.

Not all of these tips will suit every parent. Get involved in a way that's right for you.

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