

Parents Matter



Parent engagement means

- **Making learning an important part of a child's day**
- **Supporting students 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. Parents, educators and community members can visit www.ontario.ca/EDU to learn more.

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

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. Available in multiple languages at www.ontario.ca/abc123

Parents of secondary school students

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

Learn more about parent engagement in Ontario schools

Visit www.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 Schools: helping all parents become involved by supporting school-based initiatives that focus on engaging parents who face barriers of language, recent immigration, poverty, newness to Ontario's education system or other factors.

Parents Reaching Out Grants for Regional / Provincial Projects: funding province-wide projects that contribute to student success, create a culture in which parents are partners, and help to ensure that schools and school boards are welcoming to parents and provide them with opportunities to build their knowledge and skills.

Parent Engagement Office: leading the development of effective parent involvement across Ontario.

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

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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 behaviour problems
 - Opportunities for parents to become involved in the life of the school and the community
 - A brighter future for students at school and in later life.
- **Create a place for studying:** encourage a regular homework time with limited distractions. Establish 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 – from parent information nights to volunteer activities, arts and sporting events, or school council participation.
 - **Stay informed:** find out what is happening in the classroom, the school and the school community.

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 kindergarten 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.

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

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**For more information visit
www.ontario.ca/EDUparents**