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Welcome

Welcome to the new Parent Engagement Webpage and to the **“Collaborating for Success” Parent Engagement Toolkit**.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), the State Board of Education and the Office of Field Services (OFS) are committed to increasing student achievement and supporting Michigan’s districts by providing them with the best possible parent engagement resources. Extensive research conducted over the past forty years indicates that when parents are engaged in their children’s education **academic achievement increases**.

The Office of Field Services, in collaboration with representatives from other MDE departments (including Early Childhood and the Office of Educational Improvement and Innovations), as well as intermediate school districts, local educational agencies, universities and parents established a Parent Engagement Review Committee in June 2011. The committee’s primary role was to:

1. Improve student academic achievement by providing school teams with research based strategies and resources for overcoming barriers to parent engagement in schools.
2. Compile compelling summary and synthesis of research regarding the impact of parent engagement on student academic achievement.
3. Provide parents with a practical tool that informs them of the school system, and incorporates strategies and resources conducive to children’s cognitive, academic, social and emotional growth.

Guided by a vision of empowerment and collaboration, the committee provided the Department of Education with a sustainable vision for parent engagement to guide its efforts.

Vision Statement

Engagement of all parents within Michigan schools is based on mutual respect and empowerment. Through full partnership, we can increase the achievement and success of every child.

The committee's work culminated in the development of the **"Collaborating For Success" Parent Engagement Toolkit**. This new resource was designed for all districts whether they are at the initial stages of developing a parent engagement plan or need additional resources to enhance their existing efforts. Equally, it was designed for parents to access key information to make their engagement with their children's school more productive, enjoyable and beneficial.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to promoting the academic success of Michigan's youth and for visiting the Parent Engagement Webpage. School teams, it is our hope that you will find these resources useful to enhance your efforts. Parents, we invite you to read and utilize the information to enable you to become more engaged in your child's educational experience.

We invite you to read and utilize the enclosed information, and welcome your suggestions and thoughts regarding this resource. You can reach us by email at: parentengagementtoolkit@michigan.gov

Parent Engagement Committee, 2011
Michigan Department of Education

Acknowledgements

The Michigan Department of Education and Office of Field Services would like to thank and acknowledge the committee members who assisted in the collaborative development of this Toolkit. These include:

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