

It Pays to Get Involved

Getting involved in your child's school has long-lasting, positive effects on both their academic performance and their overall attitude about school. Hundreds of research studies over the last three decades have highlighted the tremendous benefits to school, students, and community when parents get involved in their children's education. Here are some highlights.

Benefits to Students

When parents are involved in their children's education, the children are more likely to:

- Earn better grades
- Score higher on tests
- Pass their classes
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills
- Show improved behavior
- Be more positive in their attitude toward school
- Complete homework assignments
- Graduate and go on to post-secondary school.

Benefits to Schools

Schools with involved parents enjoy:

- Better morale among teachers
- Higher ratings of teachers by parents
- More support from families
- A better reputation in the community

Benefits to Parents

When parents become involved in their children's education, the parents are more likely to:

- Be more confident at school
- Be more confident in themselves as parents and their ability to help their children learn
- Be held in higher opinion by teachers and have teachers expect more from their children
- Enroll in continuing education to advance their own schooling

It Works

In both two-parent and father-only households where dads are highly involved at school, children are more likely to:

- Succeed academically
- Participate in extracurricular activities
- Enjoy school

They are less likely to:

- Have to repeat a grade
- Be suspended or expelled

When parents get involved early in their children's education, the results are more pronounced and long-lasting. The more parents are involved in education, from working with their children at home to volunteering to fundraising to decision-making at school, the better for student achievement.

One study found that students from families with above average parental involvement were 30 percent more successful in school than those with below average involvement. Success was measured by GPA; test scores in math, science, reading, and social studies; promotion and retention rates; and teacher ratings.