

# PaTTAN Resources to Enhance Family Engagement



The Requirement of State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicator 8 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education

Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004) include collecting and reporting data on the involvement of families in their child's special education programs.

Specifically, states must report annually to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs and the public on SPP Indicator 8, "Percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities."

To ensure that every child, regardless of zip code, economic status, race, ethnicity, or disability reaches academic proficiency in core academic disciplines, school entities need to consider the importance of family engagement. Research clearly points to a strong correlation between family involvement and student achievement (Epstein, 2005; Furger, 2006; Henderson & Berla, 1994; Henderson & Mapp, 2002). When schools implement intentional and intensive family engagement strategies, there is a significant rise in student achievement scores (Redding, et al., 2004).

One goal of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) is to provide local education agencies (LEAs) with tools to build local capacity to increase student achievement. By engaging families in meaningful ways, LEAs can work toward this goal. PaTTAN's resources are available on the Family Engagement page of the PaTTAN website.

Please check the PaTTAN website frequently as these resources will be updated and resources added as they become available. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact your regional PaTTAN office.



## Resources currently available on the Family Engagement section of the PaTTAN website: [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)

### Indicator 8: School Facilitated Parent Involvement

Two webinars have been developed to provide information regarding the Indicator 8 parent involvement survey.

*The Indicator 8 Overview Webinar* provides details regarding the development of the survey; the types of questions parents are asked; how the survey is scored; and Pennsylvania's survey results.

*The Parent Involvement Survey Webinar* is designed to address questions families may have about the survey. The webinar addresses the following questions: what is Indicator 8; how is the parent survey administered; what types of questions are addressed in the survey; and why should parents receiving the survey respond.

### Family Engagement: LEA to LEA Webinar Series

This webinar series highlights successful family engagement strategies used by schools within the Commonwealth. The webinar series is designed for school administrators, teachers and others interested in learning more about overcoming the challenges and recognizing the successes associated with effective family engagement.

### Talking with Parents of Students with Disabilities Webinar Series

This webinar series is designed to assist local school leaders on how to go about addressing important topics with families of students with disabilities.

### Enhancing Family Engagement: The Indicator 8 Training Module Series

The training module series is an electronic toolkit designed to provide LEAs with "shelf-ready" training tools to support the development and enhancement of family engagement practices through a self-directed course of study. The series consists of six, independent modules of study framed by the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, developed by the National Parent Teacher Association.

### Print Resources for Enhancing Family Engagement

PaTTAN print resources include a practical guide for LEAs to reference as they work to increase family engagement. The guide, *Enhancing Parent Engagement: A Practical Guide*, frames three overarching themes: Leadership, Relationships, and Training. Each theme is developed to address research, best practice and suggest considerations for implementing family engagement strategies. Additional Family Engagement print resources are also available on the website.

### An Introduction to PaTTAN - A Presentation for Parents

This is the first in a series of webcasts for parents, which schools can use to support their families in accessing the resources available on the PaTTAN website. In this brief session, PaTTAN staff shares information and tips on navigating the world of special education in Pennsylvania for families of children with disabilities.