**Parent-Teacher Partnerships for Student Success**



**Module 5: Advocacy and Collaboration with the Community**

**Advocacy Activities**

\*SCHOOL TO HOME

* Have “low-tech” and “high-tech” options for parents to receive information
  + LOW-TECH
    - Weekly folders for notices, memos, progress notes, schoolwork, and other two-way communications
    - School signs
  + HIGH-TECH
    - Internet video, Audiotapes / Podcasts, Website pages, Teacher Blogs, text messages, Electronic newsletters, Electronic student log
* What are their accessibility needs?
* Use Parent Quick Guides provided by SSTR1
* Information to help families:
  + Understand school programs
  + Student progress
  + State tests
  + District and Student report cards / assessment reports
  + Contact district administrators
  + Contact building staff
  + Contact transportation office
  + Understand school board activities
  + Understand school / state policies on dispute resolution
  + School policies, programs, reforms, and student transitions
  + Choosing schools (open enrollment), selecting courses, joining extra-curricular activities
  + Special services
  + Post-graduation transition options (college, employment, independent living)
  + Parent Mentors
  + Community Resources
* Help develop a parent-to-parent network
* Organize and maintain an active parent organization(s)
* Offer parent and student training in advocacy and collaboration
* Offer draft of IEP for parents to review in order to help prevent problems at IEP meeting
* Monthly breakfasts with administrators / school board to hear current information and time for questions and discussions
* Obtain ideas from families to help solve problems specific to their child and/or district issues.
* Use a formal problem-solving process to facilitate meeting focus
  + Write down possible solutions, chosen solution, and team members’ responsibilities as decided at meeting
  + Choose a team manager to keep everyone accountable
  + Use student data
  + Do not allow the “blame game” regarding a student’s problems
* Encourage parent(s) to invite someone to support them at meetings
* Be honest when you don’t have an answer / solution – ask for other resources to come in and help
* Attend a community resource meeting to learn more about them and the services provided – or ask them to present to all staff / parents
* Be sure to have an administrator at a meeting when team members may not be in agreement / alliance

**RESOURCES:**

*Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School-Partnerships,* by Henderson, A.T. et al. (2007). The New Press.

*School, Family, and Community Partnerships, Third Edition*, by J.L. Epstein et al.. (2009). Corwin Press.

Contents were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education, #323A120002-13 and adapted in 2017 by The Ohio State University. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Jennifer Coffey. PTP Documents Archive: <https://u.osu.edu/familyschoolpartnerships/ptp/>