**Parent-Teacher Partnerships for Student Success**

**Module 6: Commitment and Volunteering**

**Commitment Activities**

\*SCHOOL TO HOME

* Impress upon family and community members the importance of their participation in positively impacting student academic achievement and behavior
* Encourage a parent-to-parent program in the district to support emotional needs
* Bring in "experts" to address parent needs
* For family information session, recruit childcare, food donations, etc.
* Look for grants that support family activities
* Be aware of parent networks in community as resources
* Attend extra-curricular events in which your students participate
* Communicate with families your schedule of when best to be reached and provide correct number, extension, email
* Attend meetings and be present the entire meeting
* Provide staff directory
* Demonstrate genuine interest and care as persons, not objects of job
* Office is accessible - someone is available to greet - principal available - teachers greeting students on and off the bus
* Facilitate social skills and friendships for students, not just academics
* Be willing to talk to school administration about changes that might be needed to improve services for students with disabilities

\*HOME TO SCHOOL

* Try to understand teacher's complicated life
* Show consistency in helping with homework, supporting child's activities and school progress, attending meetings
* Be willing to connect with another parent who may need your support
* Share experiences with teachers / parent that have helped your child
* Let teacher know your availability for conferences, meetings, volunteering
* Make sure teacher has best ways to reach you
* Send in a small gift or thank you note to show the staff your appreciation

**RESOURCES:**

Epstein, Joyce L & Associates. (2009). *School, Family, and Community Partnerships (3rd ed.)*. CA: Corwin Press.

Glasgow, Neal A. & Whitney, Paula J. (2009). *What Successful Schools Do To Involve Families: 55 Partnership Strategies*. CA: Corwin Press.

Henderson, Anne T., Mapp, Karen L., Johnson, Vivian R., & Davies, Don (2007). *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships.* NY: The New Press.

Turnbull, Ann, Turnbull, Rud, Erwin, Elizabeth J., Soodak, Leslie C., & Shogren, Karrie A. (2015). *Families, Professionals, and Exceptionality (7th ed.).* NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

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