

Strategies to Increase Parent Involvement
Developed by School Leaders Participating in NCLB Leadership Workshops
Summer 2005

1. Contact every parent by phone, inviting and encouraging their participation.
2. Students write letters to parents asking them to participate.
3. Child and parent will sign a contract quarterly where parent helps child with assessment.
4. Set up a book club for parents.
5. Set up bulletin boards to post honor roll and perfect attendance students' pictures with their parents each quarter.
6. Organize service-learning roles for parents at the school that can go on a job application. They learn a set of skills that can be listed on the resume.
7. Make and communicate a Parent Involvement Policy involving all stakeholders.
8. Door-to-Door Communication—by school staff and by parent leaders.
9. Provide/take parents to workshops! Carpool or have the sessions at school.
10. Listen and get feedback—take surveys.
11. Make sure that all communications you send to parents are in their language.
12. Encourage parents/guardians to participate in all school functions: report card pick up, award assemblies, honor role inductions. Then send them a note in the mail thanking them for their participation.
13. Ask parents/guardians to check and sign student homework.
14. Positive and clear communications: talk about what you want, not what you don't want.
15. Make all your meetings short, successful and satisfying. Parents should feel as if they have learned something they can use.
16. Recognize parent volunteers quarterly.
17. End of each week give an appreciation item.
18. Get businesses to sponsor—come with a list of what you want.
19. Train parents, which leads to parent involvement.
20. Each meeting should include an activity parents can do at home/school.
21. Have parent/grandparent week when they help.
22. Parent of the week.
23. Use the Internet to post parent information to newsletter.
24. Incorporate short meeting in events like talent show.
25. Ask parents to play learning games with children.
26. Send minutes of meetings to parents.
27. Set up a parent information center, including access to a computer.
28. Encourage teachers to contact parents with positive reports on students.
29. Send information about the school's programs to community organizations.
30. Hold a school community meeting quarterly to report on school progress and ways parents and community members can support your school.

Developed for the Parent Community Partnership Program, Chicago Public Schools.

