

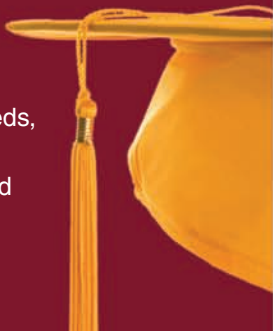
## How to Build Meaningful Parent Partnerships

We believe that meaningful parental involvement is essential to the holistic development of children. However, we also believe that building strong parent partnerships is one of the strategies through which meaningful parental involvement occurs.

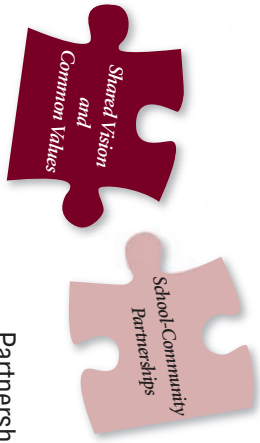
Consider the following levels of a parent's involvement, to name just a few:

- Assisting in their child's school readiness
- Helping their child with academic tasks and in preparing for subject-area and standardized tests
- Supporting their child in developing his/her long-term educational and career aspirations
- Guiding their child in developing the social skills and temperament to function well in society
- Encouraging and supporting their child's involvement in the arts, athletics, and community service
- Collaborating with schools and school teachers to support their child's academic achievement
- Promoting and supporting their local PTA/PTSA, booster clubs, and student organizations

Increasing parental involvement in such areas will require more than simply "asking or expecting parents to be involved." Engaging parents will require a set of strategic initiatives designed to build relationships, understand their needs, and provide the necessary tools, resources, and support to build and sustain their involvement.



Partnerships • Staff Development • Student Presentations • Parent Workshops  
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# THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT SEMINAR SERIES



*Involving parents in the schooling of their children is essential to the process of nurturing the academic, social, cultural, and humanistic development of young people. Sharing with parents strategies and ideas on how to have such meaningful involvement in the lives of their offspring most frequently occurs through our local schools; however, faith and community organizations also play a role, through fraternities and sororities, via lunchtime discussions at local businesses, or at small gatherings in living rooms and on front porches. When or where such gatherings occur is less important than ensuring that they do occur.*

— Mychal Wynn

## Staff Development

Staff persons in schools and community organizations frequently wonder, “Where are the parents of these children?” Classroom teachers frequently lament, “We cannot get parents to support our efforts.” Even the President of the United States has declared, “Parents must be involved in the education of their children.”

Our approach to staff development is to engage school-based personnel and community members in courageous conversations regarding parental involvement. These conversations are designed to identify strategies that strengthen parent-teacher relationships, develop school-community collaboration, and build home-school partnerships driven by the school’s mission, vision, and core values.

These conversations will engage staff and community stakeholders in examining such questions as:

- Do parents and teachers have a true partnership in the academic achievement of students?
- Do parents believe the school to be impartial and fair in its policies and treatment of students?
- Do parents have a clear understanding of the school’s goals and learning outcomes, and their role in achieving such outcomes?
- Do parents believe that they have sufficient support from teachers and access to administrators?
- Do parents believe that their involvement is valued by staff persons?
- Do parents believe that there are shared expectations for student success and that teachers and parents are working together to build student capacity as opposed to focusing on student failures?
- Have staff persons achieved measurable success in closing socioeconomic, cultural, racial, educational, and language gaps?

These conversations are designed to illuminate the current school climate and culture, examine practices, conceptualize strategies, and develop practical steps toward strengthening home-school relationships and increasing and sustaining meaningful parental involvement.



## Parenting Workshops/Seminars

A comprehensive series of parenting workshops and seminars have been developed to assist PTA/PTSA groups, faith and community organizations, booster clubs, athletic teams, fraternities and sororities, and small community groups in building parent partnerships and strengthening parent-teacher, home-school, and parent-parent relationships.

The parenting workshops and seminars that we offer are as diverse as the needs of the parents and communities that we serve. The sessions provide strategies for:

- Assisting parents with school readiness
- Assisting parents in developing K – 12 academic and social development plans to prepare their children for college and careers
- Assisting faith and community organizations in developing educational programs to support parents in ensuring the academic achievement of their children
- Assisting athletic programs and community organizations in increasing parental involvement by expanding parents’ awareness of the long-term college and career opportunities resulting from their child’s involvement in athletic and community service programs
- Presenting lunchtime seminars at local businesses and parent-to-parent discussions in living rooms and on front porches
- Building a stronger PTA/PTSA to support local schools as well as parents in increasing student achievement

## What People are Saying:

*Through our partnership with the Foundation for Ensuring Access and Equity, the Education Ministry of Turner Chapel AME Church has reached heights previously unimaginable. At one time, our education ministry provided a small group of students annually with college scholarships; however, as a result of our partnership with the foundation, we celebrate academic achievement twice a year, provide college preparation support of high school juniors and seniors, provide CRCT test preparation for hundreds of students, and have created a culture of high academic expectations that has strengthened relationships between families and involved parents in the academic development of their children. Every church should be so blessed to reach so many students and families.*

*Reverend Don Ezell  
Youth Pastor  
Turner Chapel AME Church  
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