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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 27, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Presentation on Parent Engagement and Involvement

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has updated guidance on parent engagement in their child's education.

Best practices and current research shows that the most accurate predictor of a student's academic achievement is not income or social status, but the extent to which the student's family is able to:

- 1) Create a home environment that encourages learning;
- 2) Communicate high expectations for achievement and future careers to their own children; and,
- 3) Become involved in their children's education at school and in the educational community.

An interdisciplinary team of state educators and MDE cross-office staff have recently enhanced the parent engagement web site with practical information and a wide variety of relevant tools to stimulate adoption of best practices. These resources outline the things parents can do to support learning and engage with teachers. The resources also help educators to identify barriers to parent engagement and how to remove these barriers while providing successful strategies for engaging parents in meaningful ways.

The MDE staff will provide the Board with an overview of the "Collaboration for Success" Toolkit posted on the Parents and Family website. Board members are encouraged to explore the website prior to the meeting at <http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5233---,00.html>.

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