



# “Collaborating For Success” Parent Engagement Toolkit



## Welcome

Welcome to the new Parent Engagement Webpage and to the **“Collaborating for Success” Parent Engagement Toolkit**.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), the State Board of Education and the Office of Field Services (OFS) are committed to increasing student achievement and supporting Michigan’s districts by providing them with the best possible parent engagement resources. Extensive research conducted over the past forty years indicates that when parents are engaged in their children’s education **academic achievement increases**.

The Office of Field Services, in collaboration with representatives from other MDE departments (including Early Childhood and the Office of Educational Improvement and Innovations), as well as intermediate school districts, local educational agencies, universities and parents established a Parent Engagement Review Committee in June 2011. The committee’s primary role was to:

1. Improve student academic achievement by providing school teams with research based strategies and resources for overcoming barriers to parent engagement in schools.
2. Compile compelling summary and synthesis of research regarding the impact of parent engagement on student academic achievement.
3. Provide parents with a practical tool that informs them of the school system, and incorporates strategies and resources conducive to children’s cognitive, academic, social and emotional growth.

Guided by a vision of empowerment and collaboration, the committee provided the Department of Education with a sustainable vision for parent engagement to guide its efforts.

### **Vision Statement**

**Engagement of all parents within Michigan schools is based on mutual respect and empowerment. Through full partnership, we can increase the achievement and success of every child.**

The committee's work culminated in the development of the **"Collaborating For Success" Parent Engagement Toolkit**. This new resource was designed for all districts whether they are at the initial stages of developing a parent engagement plan or need additional resources to enhance their existing efforts. Equally, it was designed for parents to access key information to make their engagement with their children's school more productive, enjoyable and beneficial.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to promoting the academic success of Michigan's youth and for visiting the Parent Engagement Webpage. School teams, it is our hope that you will find these resources useful to enhance your efforts. Parents, we invite you to read and utilize the information to enable you to become more engaged in your child's educational experience.

We invite you to read and utilize the enclosed information, and welcome your suggestions and thoughts regarding this resource. You can reach us by email at: [tabrizis@michigan.gov](mailto:tabrizis@michigan.gov).

Parent Engagement Committee, 2011  
Michigan Department of Education

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# Parent Engagement Committee

## Acknowledgements

The Michigan Department of Education and Office of Field Services would like to thank and acknowledge the committee members who assisted in the collaborative development of this Toolkit. These include:

## Parent Representatives

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## About The “Collaborating For Success” Parent Engagement Toolkit

The Toolkit was designed to be an easy to use “how to” guide to develop, maintain or sustain growth of school or district parent engagement work. The toolkit provides researched-based information, proven strategies and downloadable tools that can be customized to districts’ needs. In addition, it includes extensive sources that are accessed with one quick click. The “**Collaborating For Success” Parent Engagement Toolkit** is only of many resources available to schools, districts and parents to continue to support academic achievement and success.

### How The Toolkit is Organized:

The toolkit is designed in a simple to use webpage format. There are four sections:

- SECTION I**     [Why Parent Engagement is Important](#)  
Outlines the need for and benefits of engaging parents in their children’s education.
- SECTION II**    [Legal Requirements](#)  
Provides an overview of the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) regarding parent engagement and how these apply to the compliance with federally funded school programs.
- SECTION III**   [Resources For Parents](#)  
Provides an easy to follow informational guide on Michigan’s school system from pre-kindergarten to high school graduation.
- SECTION IV**    [Resources For Schools & Districts](#)  
Provides easy to follow guidelines that include proven strategies for engaging parents, strategies for overcoming barriers to parent engagement, and specific topics such as “how to work with translators and interpreters.”
- SECTION V**     [Reference](#)  
Endnotes, Bibliography and Glossary of Terms

Each section topic includes: an Overview, Strategy(ies), Tools and/or Additional Information, and Resources (where appropriate). Embedded in each section are hyperlinks to other parts of the Toolkit, enabling the user to immediately reference a list of topics and subtopics.

The Resources for Schools & Districts includes links to Tools formatted in MS Word that can be downloaded for customization. However, **please ensure** that you are providing the appropriate citation for your adaptation.

Suggestions for improvement and/or topic areas that would be useful to address in future updates can be sent to: [tabrizis@michigan.gov](mailto:tabrizis@michigan.gov).