

## Traditional and Non-traditional Parent Participation<sup>38</sup>

Parents are more involved in supporting their child's learning at home. It is critical for school personnel to recognize the value of any and all efforts by parents to be engaged in their child's education.<sup>39</sup> The following chart outlines strategies and activities that are traditionally happening in schools and homes. The non-traditional column identifies engagement practices that strengthen relationships that lead to collaboration and partnership.

Examples of traditional participation could be asking for donations, fundraising activities, managing a sporting event. Examples of non-traditional participation would be recruiting parents to serve on decision-making committees, attending school board meeting and parents making presentation or participating in a committee to review changes in a specific subject's curriculum.

| TRADITIONAL PARTICIPATION   | NON-TRADITIONAL PARTICIPATION   |
|---|---|
| <p>Assists families with parenting and childrearing skills and with creating home conditions to support learning.</p> <p>Communicates with families about school programs and student progress with two-way communications.</p> <p>Includes recruiting efforts to involve families as volunteers and audiences.</p> <p>Involves families with their children in learning activities at home, including homework and other curriculum-linked activities.</p> <p>Includes families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy through councils and organizations.</p> <p>Collaborates and coordinates with the work and community-based agencies, colleges and other groups to strengthen school programs.</p> | <p>Develops reciprocal understanding of schools and families.</p> <p>Situates cultural strengths of family and community within the school curriculum.</p> <p>Provides parental education that includes family literacy and understanding school community.</p> <p>Instills parental empowerment through parent-initiated efforts at the school and community level.</p> <p>Implements culturally and linguistically appropriate practices in all aspects of communication.</p> |