

# Parent Involvement in Education



Federation of Families of South Carolina

[www.fedfamsc.org](http://www.fedfamsc.org)

866-779-0402

This project is provided by a grant through  
SC Department of Education, Office of Exceptional Children

# Parent Involvement

## Why we need it:



**The benefits of parent involvement are:**

- Higher Test Scores
- Better grades
- Better attendance
- Higher Levels of Homework completion
- More positive student motivation
- Improved behavior
- Federal and state mandate

# Language:



## Parent Involvement or Family Involvement Involvement or Engagement

- “Parent” generally used to describe participation by a child’s primary caretaker(s) - whether that is a single mom or dad, two parents, grandparents, foster parents, or an older sibling.
- By definition, “family” may include a parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle, neighbor, caregiver, etc.
- The “family” aspect of family involvement is defined as any supportive adult role model who is committed to the academic, social, emotional, and physical development/empowerment of a child
- To involve- “to enfold or envelope”
- To engage- “to interlock with, to mesh”

# Parent Involvement in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)



- **Pilot in Horry County School District**
  - Parent Involvement in PBIS-
    - Education/Information/Training
    - Participation on PBIS Team
    - Plans to engage parents:
      - Examples in these schools and other areas-
        - Family night
        - Parent passport
        - Parent date night

# Family Involvement.....Engagement

## Best and Promising Practices:

**Family Partnership-What are the Guidelines According to the Research?** Standards identified by the National PTA build on six types of parent involvement identified by Dr. Joyce L. Epstein of the Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University:

**Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) website: (Effective for non-PBIS schools as well)**

Parenting

Communicating

Volunteering

Student Learning

Shared Decision-Making

Collaborating with Community

[http://www.pbis.org/family/family\\_partnership.aspx](http://www.pbis.org/family/family_partnership.aspx)

**The Family Involvement Network of Educators; Harvard Family Research Project:**

We are committed to meeting the growing demand for information on effective ways to support family involvement in children's learning and development.

<http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/family-involvement-in-the-education-of-secondary-school-age-students-with-disabilities>

**A Three-tiered Approach to Family Engagement-**

2010 LRP Publications, Vol. 3, Iss.2-2/10, Chapter 17

Answer Book on RTI-School-Family Engagement and RTI-Amy L. Reschly, Ph.D

"Families are a vital source of information about students. Educators should strive to have a range of family-, school-, and collaborative family-school interventions available to their school team, students and families. School teams must plan for and invite family engagement in all stages of the problem-solving process from assessment and intervention planning and implementation to evaluation and decision-making (Reschly et al, 2007).

<http://www.d300.org/files/Ch%2017%20Parent%20Involvement.pdf>

**Three Tiers for Family Engagement**

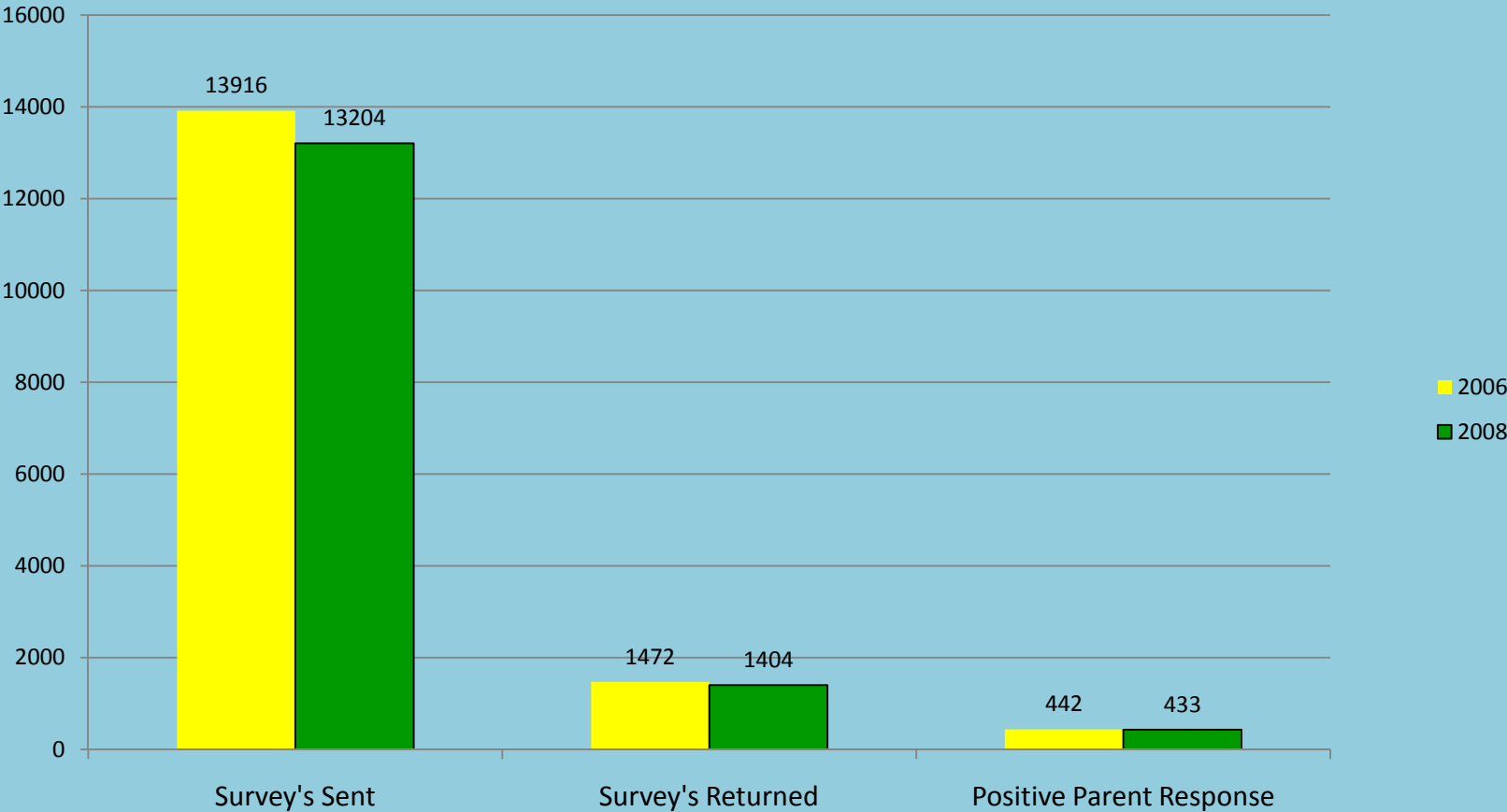
A project in practice in Cleveland Metropolitan School District- Tammy Stenbridge, MSM and Trina W. Osher, M.A.

# Family Involvement: Students with Disabilities



- Disparity of family involvement of students with disabilities.
- Families least likely to be involved are families of students identified with Learning Disabilities (LD) or Emotional Disabilities (ED)
- At least 55% of students receiving special education services in SC are identified LD or ED.
- Indicator 8 in the State Performance Plan (SPP) seeks to increase the number of parents who indicate that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

# Indicator 8: State Performance Plan Parent Survey Results



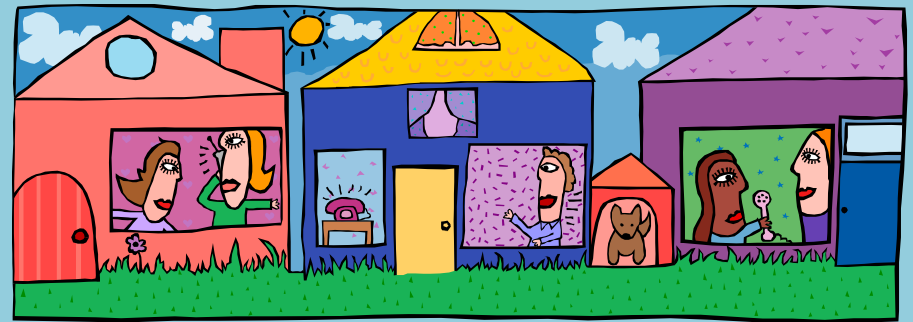
# Family Involvement: Our Challenge



- **Best & Promising Practices:**

Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships  
at Johns Hopkins University- Dr. Joyce L. Epstein

- Parenting
- Communicating
- Volunteering
- Student Learning
- Shared Decision-Making
- Collaborating with Community



# More Research Based Practices.....



Harvard Family  
Research Project

## Harvard Family Research Project

### \*Family Involvement in the Education of Secondary-School-Age Students With Disabilities

- Research Background
- Research Methods
- Research Findings

Involvement at Home

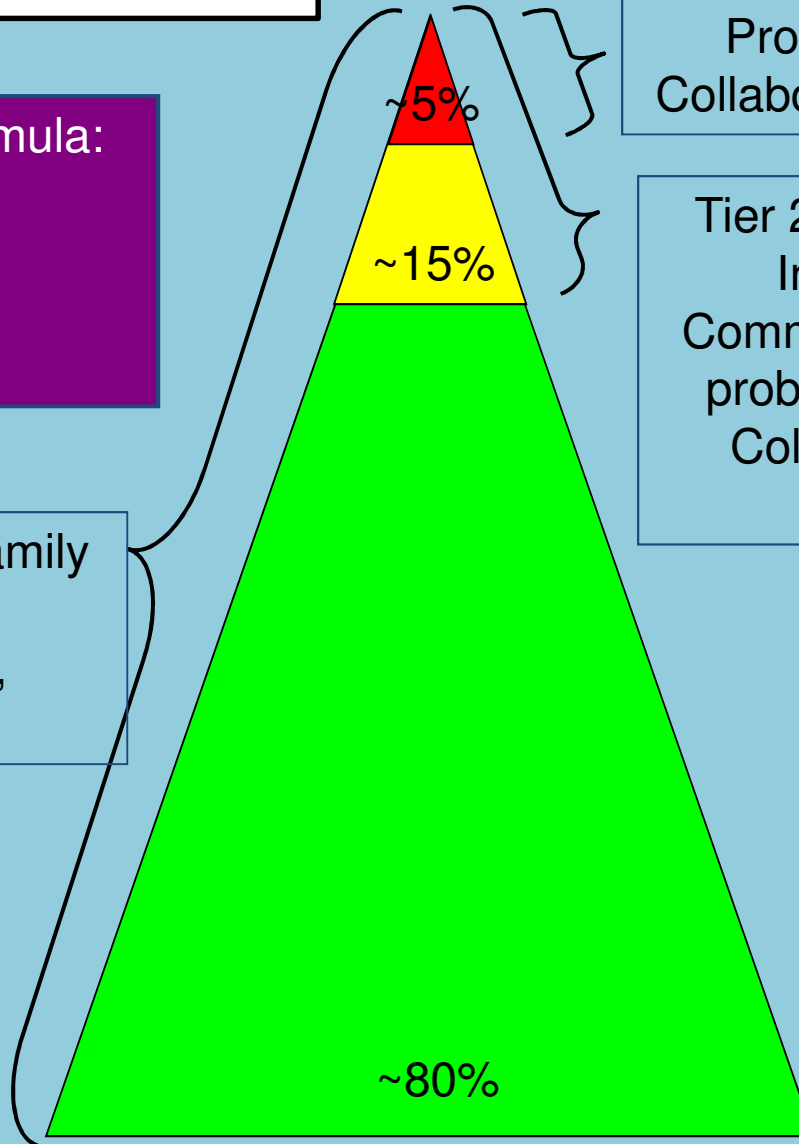
Involvement in School-Based

Activities

# A Three Tiered Approach to Family Engagement

Family Involvement Formula:  
Approach  
Attitudes  
Atmosphere  
Actions

Tier 1-Developing School-Family Relationships:  
Represents all students, families and educators



Tier 3- Even More Intensive Level of Interventions, Communication, Joint-Problem solving and Collaboration with Families

Tier 2-More Frequent Interventions, Communication, Joint-problem solving and Collaboration with Families

# 3-Tiers for Family Engagement: A Project in Practice



A Family Engagement Task Force was formed to make recommendations about implementing a 3-tiered approach that would:

- Make schools more family friendly and welcoming to all parents;
- Provide additional supports to groups of families; and
- Reach out to individual families and address the barriers and challenges they face.

This was accomplished by:

- Build trusting collaborative relationships among teachers, families, and community members
- Recognize, respect, and address families' needs, as well as class and cultural difference
- Embrace a philosophy of partnership where power and responsibility are shared

(Henderson & Mapp, 2002)



# 3-Tier Approach to Family Engagement-Planning Guide

Name of the event or activity.			
Purpose or objective of the event or activity. <i>This should be a concise sentence that tells the single most important reasons for holding the event or activity.</i>			
Outcomes of the event or activity. <i>This should be a short list of specific things parents know or will be able to do as a result of participating in the event or activity. You might want to put them in priority order.</i>			
	<i>Tier 1 Example</i>	<i>Tier 2 Example</i>	<i>Tier 3 Example</i>
How will the outcomes be achieved?			
Where will the event or activity be held?			
Who is the intended audience for this event or activity?			
What materials will be provided?			
What, if any, special accommodations will be provided?			
How will you know if and when the outcomes have been achieved?			



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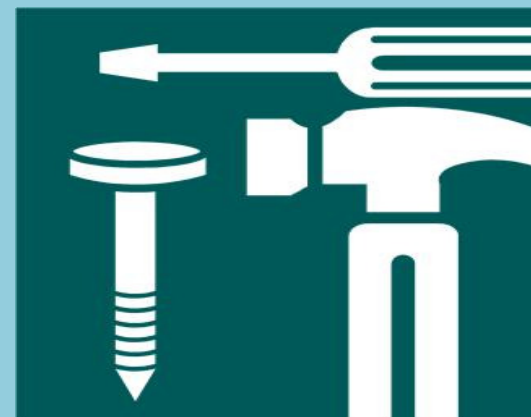
# Lessons Learned

- Support from building principals, teachers, and family engagement supervisors is ESSENTIAL
- Personal qualities that help
  - Perseverance
  - Believing the work is important
  - Earning trust from parents
- Put experienced Family Liaisons in supervisory positions
- Atmosphere must be inviting

*When there was cooperation between principal, teachers and parents, things went well.*

*Parents must feel secure enough to question a principal or teacher if they have a concern.*

# Information and Toolkit



**Best Practices**

**Family Involvement in PBIS-**

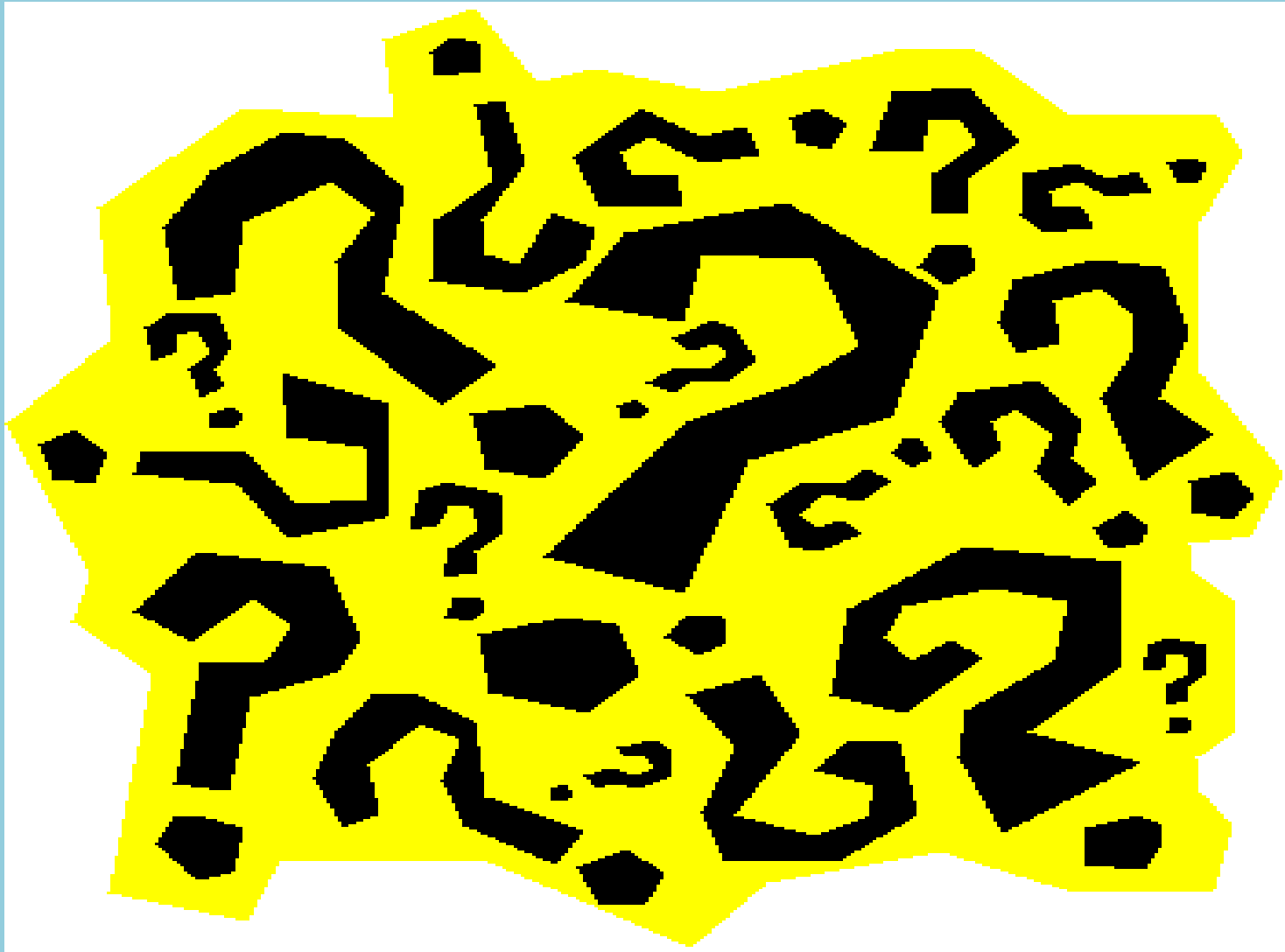
**PBIS Toolkit**

**Information Articles and Resources**

**Toolkit**

**Parent Involvement Policies**

# Questions





## **Federation of Families of South Carolina**

Contact the Federation of Families of South Carolina for additional information or technical assistance with your family involvement planning or training:

**Federation of Families of South Carolina staff working on the Family Involvement in Education project are:**

**Diane Revels Flashnick.....Executive Director...[diane.flashnick@fedfamsc.org](mailto:diane.flashnick@fedfamsc.org)**

**Crystal Bivens.....Programs Coordinator...[crystal.bivens@fedfamsc.org](mailto:crystal.bivens@fedfamsc.org)**

**[www.fedfamsc.org](http://www.fedfamsc.org) (webinar information under Services/Resources- password- ffscfamilies)**

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**Fax- 803-772-5212**