

## Community Partnerships



Providing the community with meaningful chances to engage actively is vital for improving overall wellbeing in the school. This involvement goes beyond participating in school events or meetings. It entails building a collaborative partnership that extends to all aspects of a student's education, fostering a holistic and supportive school environment.

*Cultivating meaningful partnerships with all families, encompassing cultural and socio-economic diversity within the broader community, is achieved through mutual respect and understanding (Runions & Cross, 2022).*

### Impact

Working together with families enhances the effectiveness of school-wide wellbeing practices. When teachers and families collaborate, especially for students facing challenges, positive outcomes are achieved. Reinforcing wellbeing lessons at home amplifies their influence on student behaviour and encourages families to support teachers in implementing wellbeing initiatives (Cross & Lester, 2020).

### Practices

- Inform parents about the importance of their involvement and the positive impact it has on student success. Ensure they feel appreciated when they participate. Provide families with personalised information about their children, including the social and emotional skills being taught in school, along with suggestions for reinforcing these skills at home.
- Conduct presentations for families to share key findings and insights from major wellbeing assessments or research and share the school's wellbeing plan with all families and regularly update them on any changes.
- Consistent and proactive communication with all families about positive wellbeing outcomes observed in their child. This includes updates when a student is facing challenges, achieving small successes, or putting in significant effort.
- An established, clear and singular point of initial contact with the school, ideally through a homeroom teacher. This ensures that families have a responsive, supported, and positive channel for communication.
- Strengthened partnerships with allied health and social services and any other partnerships that support student wellbeing, such as community sports, recreation and arts centres (Cross and Lester, 2020).

### Resources

The guidance report, [Working with Parents to Support Children's Learning](#) (Evidence for Learning, 2022) examines current research findings and provides educators with recommendations aimed at fostering parental involvement.

[Parent and Family Engagement: An Implementation Guide for School Communities \(ARACY, 2020\)](#), offers practical advice for schools to implement successful parent and family engagement practices, emphasising the 'how'. Drawing from extensive research, it provides evidence and examples to make engagement relevant to your school and community.

The [Family-School Partnerships](#) (Australian Government: Department of Education) resource provides a framework, school assessment tool and a range of strategies to assist schools to implement successful family engagement practices.

The article, [How to Build Collaborative Relationships Between Families and Schools](#) (Winthrop, 2022) provides practical tips for building school-family engagement. It also links to a full report, [Collaborating to Transform and Improve Education Systems](#).