**The Parent Voice on School Partnerships: Let’s Work Together to Help Our Kids Succeed**

* Research shows that parent engagement in their child’s education improves academic achievement for those students.
* Every parent should have the opportunity to become actively involved in their child’s education.
* Every parent has the right and responsibility to advocate for their child in school without being afraid that they will be retaliated against for doing so.
* Parent engagement is vitally important and schools must recognize that parents of children with disabilities have special needs that must be addressed.
* Parents or guardians need to know that they can rely on support and guidance from school officials to make sure their child’s needs are met, regardless of the academic challenges they bring to school.
* Active engagement in my child's education is important, because even though they do attend school, they still have a real world after those hours. As dedicated parents we have to play our part, as well.
* I offer to help school officials and to collaborate with them on his education but I ask questions when I see them treating him unfairly or not providing the instruction he needs.
* School officials must and should have control over what happens on the campus but must incorporate effective methods that engage rather than exclude parents during the process.
* Positive interaction and clear two-way communication between families and schools are key to making sure that schools provide an environment that is welcoming to all parents and an exciting place for children to learn.
* The relationship between parents and school officials has a lot to do with respecting the opinions and rights of parents.
* Things that would help improve relations between parents and schools include communication, parent inclusion, transparency, training for parents and school staff, and shared leadership.
* Staff also needs to be aware of the many barriers parents face to participate in schools such as poverty, language, educational attainment levels, and knowing their rights.
* I believe the schools would benefit from mediation with a neutral party. I believe the emotions get in the way of simple reasoning.
* I believe it is important for lines of communication to be open between parents and school officials.
* When a school official feels a parent has committed some infraction, the first course of action should be a conversation, followed by a verbal warning, followed by a written warning, but only escalating if behavior remains unchanged and out-of-line.
* School administrators and teachers should welcome the participation of parents in their child’s education.
* Parents bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge of their own children and their communities which schools can learn from and build upon to support student success.
* Parents have a role in determining what’s best for their children and can help improve education by working alongside educators.
* Parents must collaborate with public school staff to provide quality instruction that meets the needs of all students.
* Issuing bans against parents has a negative impact that has long term effects on the parent as well as the child who no longer benefits from their parents’ support.
* Public school principals who are issuing DPLs to permanently ban parents from their child’s school are violating state and federal law.
* School district officials must make sure that any administrator that violates state and federal law by issuing permanent bans should be disciplined so that they don’t do it again.
* School district officials should provide conflict resolution training for all principals and teachers so that they can better deal with tense situations and resolve them before they become confrontational incidents.
* School officials can collaborate with parent organizations to help develop parent knowledge and capacity, and connect parents to school and community resources to support student learning.
* School officials can provide training for school staff to build positive relationships with families and learn about families’ strengths, cultures, languages, and goals for their children.
* Schools can create leadership training opportunities for parents to weigh in on decisions that impact their child’s education.
* Working together, schools and parents can provide all students with a solid foundation for future school and life success.