

Overview of the Parent Engagement Framework

Audio Descriptive Text

Title: Chapter 3. Engaging Parents to Support Healthy School Environments; Overview of the Parent Engagement Framework. Image of Active Child icon. Report cover of School Health Index: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide. Report cover of Parent Engagement: Strategies for Involving Parents in School Health.

Video Summary

- Parent engagement in schools is defined as parents and school staff working together to support and improve the learning, development, and health of students.
- Research shows that parent engagement in schools is linked closely to better student behavior, higher academic achievement, and enhanced social skills.
- Three aspects of the parent engagement framework are connecting with parents, engaging parents in school health activities, and sustaining parent engagement in school health.

Audio Script

If parents are engaged in school activities, policies, and practices, they can impact the success of a healthy school environment. Parent engagement in schools is defined as parents and school staff working together to support and improve the learning, development, and health of children and adolescents.

Research shows that parent engagement in schools is closely linked to better student behavior, higher academic achievement, and enhanced social skills. Parent engagement also makes it more likely that children and adolescents will avoid unhealthy behaviors.

It is important for schools and districts to understand their current capacity for parent engagement in school health activities. The *School Health Index* tool, developed by CDC, can help schools identify strengths and weaknesses in current policies and practices. The Index can also be used to identify where improvements can be made to maximize parent engagement.

As described in CDC's *Parent Engagement: Strategies for Involving Parents in School Health*, there are three aspects of the parent engagement framework in schools:

- **Connecting** with parents,
- **Engaging** parents in school health activities, and
- **Sustaining** parent engagement in school health.