

# Successful family-school partnerships

Key factors critical to strengthening schools' engagement with parents.

- ✓ **Leadership:** Engagement between schools and their communities works well when there is vision and commitment from school leaders to working in partnership with all parents.
- ✓ **Relationships:** Mutual trust and respect are critical to relationships in which staff and parents share responsibility for children's learning and well-being.
- ✓ **School culture:** Inclusive schools enable all parents to be actively involved in decisions affecting their child and respond promptly to parents' concerns and questions.
- ✓ **Partnership:** Learning partnerships strengthen parents' involvement in their child's education. Parents feel that their contributions are valued. Effective learning partnerships have positive impacts on student outcomes.
- ✓ **Community networks:** Schools are an integral part of their communities. Parent and community expertise contributes to school programmes and activities. Networks are built through effective consultation.
- ✓ **Communication:** Timely, useful, and easily understood communication with parents provides opportunities to exchange information. Barriers to effective communication are actively identified and overcome.

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