

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS: WHAT IS, WHAT SHOULD BE

(Please check only one)

For the purposes of this survey, I am responding as a:

- Parent
 Teacher
 Administrator
 Other

The survey is intended to serve as a means for opening up a dialogue between parents and educators.

Section 1	
Indicate your response to each of the following statements by circling either "yes" or "no."	
1. There should be many school activities that involve students, parents and teachers, such as reading enrichment programs, sports events and recognition ceremonies to honor student achievement.	Yes No
2. Parents should be encouraged to work in the school as volunteers.	Yes No
3. Parents should supervise children with homework.	Yes No
4. Parents should be able to schedule visits to the school during the day to understand the kinds of experiences their child is having in school.	Yes No
5. There should be parent education classes run by trained personnel to teach parents how to help their children benefit from school.	Yes No
6. Parents' primary connection with the school should be to sponsor activities such as potluck suppers, fund raising, open houses and the like.	Yes No
7. Parents should initiate personal conferences with teachers when they feel it is necessary (outside of regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences).	Yes No
8. Parents should attend school board meetings.	Yes No

Section 2

Please respond to each statement by circling the number that comes closest to your thoughts about the appropriate level of parent involvement.

HOW TO RESPOND

3 = Parents should be actively involved throughout this process.

2 = Parents should be asked for their input **before** education professionals plan programs or set policies.

1 = Parents should be asked to **review** revised programs and policies.

0 = Not an appropriate role for parents; should be left solely to education professionals.

9. Developing written school district policies (such as attendance, homework and graduation requirements).	0 1 2 3
10. Developing written goals for increasing parent involvement.	0 1 2 3
11. Planning written goals for increasing parent involvement.	0 1 2 3
12. Deciding/evaluating how well teachers and principals do their jobs and how to reward and retain good teachers.	0 1 2 3
13. Determining policy on when students should be held back rather than promoted to the next grade.	0 1 2 3
14. Setting up a school advisory group to bring suggestions for changes to the principal and school board.	0 1 2 3
15. Establishing the discipline code in the school.	0 1 2 3
16. Selecting textbooks and other learning materials.	0 1 2 3
17. Developing the school budget.	0 1 2 3
18. Serving on the team that revises report cards.	0 1 2 3
19. Participating in school events such as parties, field trips, sports events, plays, etc.	0 1 2 3
20. Establishing a policy for recognizing outstanding teacher performance.	0 1 2 3
TOTAL SCORE	

Section 3		
FINAL QUESTION: The parent involvement program in our school should be <i>(circle one)</i>		
Expanded	Maintained	Reduced
Comments:		

<p>IF YOU RESPONDED AS A PARENT, WHAT YOUR SCORE MEANS:</p> <p>The lower the number circled in Section 2, the more you believe the schools should handle education decisions. You are unsure of the appropriateness of parents becoming involved as cooperative partners with school professionals. The higher you score, the more you want to help make school decisions on behalf of your own and all children in the community. You are highly motivated and want to empower other parents to be meaningfully involved.</p>
<p>IF YOU RESPONDED AS A TEACHER OR ADMINISTRATOR, WHAT YOUR SCORE MEANS:</p> <p>The lower the number circled in Section 2, the more you may question the value of parent involvement in education. The higher you scored, the more open you are to including parents in education planning. You are receptive to trying new ideas because the ultimate beneficiaries are the children. You have an easy relationship with parents in your community, and they ask your opinions and trust your judgment.</p>

Excerpted from: *President... The Easiest Job in the PTA.*