

Six Tips on Compacts

As you move through this process in launching the Compact, keep these six ideas in mind:

- 1. Compacts are both a requirement and an opportunity.**
Compacts are a requirement for schools serving Title I children, but a good idea for all schools. They keep the focus on high standards and academic success for every child. They provide a way for school policies, parent beliefs, and national goals to work together.
- 2. Compacts define responsibilities.**
Compacts make sure that everyone “owns” the responsibility of helping children achieve high academic standards. Compacts specify roles that schools and families play in helping children learn. Compacts also set expectations for others throughout the community who have a stake in children’s academic success.
- 3. Compacts share a vision for teaching and learning.**
A meaningful compact links responsibilities to a consistent philosophy of what children need to learn and how they spend their learning time at school and at home.
- 4. A compact depends on many people believing in it.**
A compact represents the ideas of the whole school community. Compacts can become powerful documents when many individuals and stakeholders agree on educational goals and fulfill their personal commitment to children’s learning.
- 5. A compact is more than a piece of paper.**
The piece of paper that lists responsibilities needs ongoing school/family/community interactions. The compact isn’t the end goal. The compact is a practical tool for better communication and productive relationships between schools and families.
- 6. A compact needs to be used.**
A compact is a “tool” that can be used to clarify expectations, solve problems, keep the focus on teaching and learning, and help clarify choices about how teachers, parents, and students spend their time. The compact’s important function is to continually broaden the circle of people who become invested in education. Ultimately, the compact’s - and school’s – success depends on broad-based commitment to children’s learning.

Source: RMC

From the upcoming handbook, *Joining Together to Help Our Children Achieve*,
US Department of Education