



Parent Involvement in the Mercer Island School District

Mercer Island High School
Mercer Island, Washington

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Principal

School and Community Information

- 1450 students grades 9-12
- Affluent, suburban, and an island community
- The MIHS faculty and curriculum
- Achievement results

Why is parent involvement important?

- Develops community and strong relationships
- Shared interest and responsibility
- Helps us understand our students better
- Helps parents understand our work and our challenges
- We need their help and they need our help

Research on Parent Involvement

- Definitions of parent involvement
- Growing body of research since the 1980's
- Research overwhelmingly demonstrates that students with involved parents have:
 - higher grades and test scores
 - higher attendance and graduation rates
 - better social skills
 - higher rates of college admission

Examples of Formal Parent Involvement

- School Board
- District Committees
- PTSA
- District PTSA

Examples of Formal Parent Involvement

- Fine Arts Advisory
- Booster Clubs
- Site Council
- Mutual Respect and Understandings

Examples of Informal Parent Involvement

- Homework, teacher meetings, school events, communicating with teachers etc.
- Exercising opportunities to provide the parent perspective
- Activity and specialty event planning
- Interview teams

Examples of Informal Parent Involvement

- Ad hoc committees (school and district)
- Focus groups
- Volunteer opportunities
- Sharing expertise

Revenue Generation

- Mercer Island Schools Foundation
- Bond and levy Committees
- Legislative committees
- Individuals and corporations
- PTSA
- Booster Clubs

Summary Points

- *Mutual Understandings* document
- Role of Board, District Administration, School Administrators
- Attitude
- Partnership

The most promising opportunity for student achievement occurs when families, schools, and community organizations work together.

Questions and Challenges

- A valuable resource or a threat to autonomy and professionalism?
- Less affluent communities?
- How is this approach sustained?
- Decision Making
- Dependence
- Training/Educating
- Expectations
- Competing Interests
- Equity and Access